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The Rocket's Red Glare

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To Canada**

Notre Dame's
Ismail And
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Part-Owner
Wayne Gretzky





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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE MAY 4, 1991 VOL. 124 NO. 18

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COVER

THE ROCKET'S RED GLARE



Reggie (Rocket) Aune became the second-highest-paid player in professional football last week when he signed a \$30.1-million contract with the Toronto Argonauts. The deal was a coup for the CFL, as well as for entrepreneur Bruce McNall, who acquired Wayne Gretzky for the Los Angeles Kings in 1988. McNall also completed his purchase of the Argonauts last week. — 38

WORLD

TO SAVE THE KURDS



In talks with Kurdish leaders, Saddam Hussein promised them autonomy, democracy and security. But Western leaders expressed skepticism, and many of the estimated two million Kurdish refugees said that they would return home only if Washington and its allies guaranteed their safety. — 30

PEOPLE

SINGER WITH A NEW HIT



Her career continues to soar, but pop singer Whitney Houston's personal life took an unusual turn last week after she was charged with punching a man and threatening to kill him during a brawl at a Lexington, Ky., hotel. Houston faces a maximum fine of \$200 and 12 months in jail. — 37



A \$30-Million Smile

For Canadian Football League fans with memories of hotdogging wide receiver Johnny Rodgers running backwords with the ball into opponents' end zones for the Montreal Alouettes in the 1970s, last week's spectacular \$30-million signing of Ragheb (Rocket) Ismail was a reminder that the CFL has often looked south for stars. But this time, the perennially troubled eight-team league is banking on two Americans to stare off attention: In addition to the on-field promise of Ismail, one of the most celebrated U.S. college athletes ever, the CFL welcomed Los Angeles businessman Bruce McNeil to its circle of winners last week. The exuberant McNeil, who also owns the National Hockey League's Los Angeles Kings, is best known in Canada for his dramatic 1984 acquisition of Wayne Gretzky from the Edmonton Oilers. As Montreal's National Business Correspondent Brenda Delglish, who has interviewed McNeil three times, noted, "His former left-sports-and-right-thinking, so it is not surprising that he looked Rocket."

But if the CFL is to flourish financially, it will need more than the speedy Ismail. Associate Editor James Deacon and John Daly point out that some teams still play in small, aged stadiums, and the league is desperately in need of a more lucrative television contract. Added Business Editor Russ Lurie, who edited the cover package "The economic challenge is daunting."

For his part, Ismail has never even attended, let alone played in, a professional football game. But the hype surrounding his contract did not appear to take the 21-year-old Ismail playing in the barhouse atmosphere of the University of Notre Dame, in a twist to performing under pressure, and Ottawa's Staff Correspondent Bruce Wallace, who led Ismail's sprint 30 yards with Ismail in Toronto and on the Notre Dame campus at South Bend, led Added Wallace. "Ismail has as infectious smile which makes him instantly likable." Canadian football fans can only hope that the appeal is catching.



Dennis (left), Larver, Delglish, Wallace.
Only "The economic challenge is daunting."

Karen Delglish

McGraw-Hill

CANADA'S PREMIER NEWSWEEKLY

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LETTERS

GOOD COP, BAD COP

A s Alan Fotheringham warns in "From A-Sup-swing to dark frenzy" (Colours, April 1), the United States is currently a bully trying to rectify its sinking position. Empires at their end are always dangerous. Why else would the United States pick on such small but important opponents as Grenada, Panama and Nicaragua, even if in some instances they were ruled by despicable little dictators? The United States as a country is not much different from the tiny polkemoons who beat up Rodney King. Wake up, Americans! You have the power, you have the force, but you do not take the responsibility. Who is next to have his hair pulled?

Grand Chapman,
Toronto

Kent, who is doing the work?

And Pothuguese compares what some cops did in Los Angeles to what US armed forces did in Iraq. Never mind that our government acts against brutality of *home* just as it does against brutality *abroad*. Never mind who was brutalizing the Kurds and who blotted them, or who trained the summarizing Iraq brutalizers with money, just because we are imperfect does not mean that we cannot do good. In fighting the war, we began with reluctance, fear and resolve—and without guns. Pothuguese says Americans should be "more mature." One wonders if Pothuguese's "maturity" is the maturity of a child who is afraid to stand up to bullies, or the maturity of a man who is afraid to stand up to a bully. In our national identity that prompts it—could not stand a little aggression on Iraq.

Bob Center
Chapel Hill, N.C.

Alan Fotheringham's column reads like a re-entail of Barbara Amiel's "Hip hip hooray for Fox Americans" in the same issue. The beating of Rodney King by Los Angeles police is the Iraq "war" as a metaphor. The world does not need a custodian power, motivated mainly in reinforcing its own tarnished image, with positive expectations that result in the deaths of thousands of innocents. Any single power taking on the policing of this planet will, in the words of Fotheringham, assume the "dark uniforms of authority"—and of empires.

Stephen M. Clegg,
Englewood, Ala.

THE WEEKLY SHOPPING LIST

Residing their April 22 *Monline's*, and Canadian taxpayers will learn that \$975,000 of their money has been lost interest-free to a hockey-past manufacturer ("It is all in the hockey game," *Goings News*, \$78,800 given to an international work in Montreal ("The four in the middle," *Canada Special Report*) and yet another \$950,000

GANGING UP ON ASIAN CRIME

I was appalled by what was released in "Terror in the streets" (Cover, March 25). Why do we get up with this? Any immigrant who becomes involved in criminal activities should be summarily deported. If these people cannot behave themselves in a country that has given them refuge, they do not deserve our sympathy. There is no reason that we should feel obliged to nurture a criminal element that endangers the lives and safety of our citizens.

E. G. Anick
Phoenix

E. G. Anack,
Victoria

We were dismayed at the articles on Asian street gangs. Most gang members are from countries that have been in a state of war for all their lives. Many have spent years in refugee camps. They arrive in this country with little education, few job skills and little knowledge of our culture. Many have no family. Is it any wonder that some turn to gang life? How about an article to give readers insight, rather than stereotyping, calculated to reinforce stereotypes?

Marcus and Brenda Gibson,
St. Catherine's, Ga.

Letters are edited and may be condensed. Writers should supply name, address and block number. Mail corrections direct to: Letters to the Editor, *Medical Economics*, National Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill. 60610. Phone: 312/464-1417.

PASSAGES

OVERTURNED: The department under attack in February by the conservative Member Barbara McDermott is Levesande (Rant). On Southcoast in July, 1990, the 36-year-old ex-maid escaped from a Weymouth prison where she had been serving a 10-month sentence after her conviction in the 1987 killing of her then husband's ex-wife. Last October, Southcoast was the subject of an episode of television's *Lawman's After Rites*. A viewer's tip led to her arrest in Taunton Bay. Out. Last week, a conservative legislator said that the entire defense, Southcoast's refusal to bargain, violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Southcoast, which is currently in Toronto, maintains that she is innocent.



BOOK: Writer and former Irish Republican Army member *Seán Ó Faoláin*, 91, is a Dublin nursing home. He wrote more than 20 books, including novels dealing with Irish nationalism and biographies of Irish luminaries. Critics considered Ó Faoláin to be one of the best writers of short-stories in the English language.

RECOVERING: In a Milan hospital, after a suicide attempt, Italian popstar Lombardo Boite, 40, wife of tennis legend Flavia Pennetta, last week, one day after Boite's harrowing comeback attempt in Monte Carlo—a straight-set loss to 19th-ranked Andre Agassi. In February, 1999, Boite himself suffered hospital after taking a combination of tranquilizers and alcohol. He has denied that it was a suicide attempt.

DIED: Austrian violinist and conductor Willi Boskovsky, 81, after a stroke in Vop, Switzerland. The often-recorded Boskovsky conducted the Vienna Philharmonic's New Year's concert from 1964 to 1979.

OLD: Australian author Paul Brickhill, 74, is Sydney Brickhill, a former journalist and Second World War fighter pilot who received his training in Canada, wrote best-selling war novels that appeared in more than 30 languages. Some became movies, including *The Great Escape* (1963), starring Steve McQueen.

DEEDS: Don Siegel, 78, director of such action-adventure movies as *Dirty Harry* (1971) and *Escape from Alcatraz* (1979); at center, at his Nipomo, Calif., home

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OPENING NOTES

Donald Cameron rejects the throne, Barbara McDougall provokes a battle, and Nelson Mandela finds new fans

POLITICALLY CORRECT

The newsmen of the Ottawa Citizen has become a battleground for the sexes. In March, after the paper ran reporter John Hunter's profile of then-Indigenous Minister Barbara McDougall, many readers and staff members complained that it was racist. Hunter wrote that McDougall's "leak hole looks as if it had been sprayed in an auto-body shop." But the remark that enraged some feminists concerned McDougall's short skirts, which, Hunter wrote, "display the best-turned legs in cabinet dress that I think exists." Last week, a piece written by a Citizen assistant city editor, Deborah Richmond, appeared in the paper. She writes that "a veritable storm" had been raging in the newsroom, and that Hunter's article was "at least pretentious if not, it was blatant sexism." On the same page, Hunter, 54, defended his portrayal. He wrote: "I am of an age and sensibility that distinguishes men from women. I am alarmed by and uncomfortable with those who would unsettle us in the name of gender equality." McDougall declined to comment.

McDougall: the subject of a "veritable storm"



JOHN HUNTER

Harmony in the fitness ministry

When former solicitor general Pierre Cadieux accepted his new job as minister for fitness, youth and amateur sport, he entered a potentially trouble-prone situation. Mayne Proulx, who has served as Cadieux's press secretary since 1987, faced the possibility that she would be putting her boyfriend—Richard Proulx, a 10-year bartender at Sport Canada—out of work. Proulx served as press secretary to Minister Dana, the previous minister. And although the old staff usually tended to make room for the new staff after a cabinet shuffle, compensation provided for Proulx and Proulx, Cadieux, who has also accepted the position of deputy house leader, decided to keep Proulx and to hire Proulx. Said Jo-

seph Proulx, the minister's chief of staff: "There is quite a work load in that department." And a happy couple too.



JOSEPH PROULX

Cadieux: a potentially difficult situation solved

WHEN TIME IS MONEY

New Jersey state troopers are ticked off at their bosses for lacking "unreasonable jealousy"—including expensive Rolex watches. Administration issued the effect after a detective submitted a \$1,030 repair bill for his Rolex, which was damaged during an arrest. Now, the State Troopers Fraternal Association of New Jersey has filed a formal grievance, calling the rule "arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable." Said union president Thomas Ibragimov: "If the guys want to wear a Rolex, that's their business." As long as they spring for repairs.

A puffed-up pot revolt

David Jones of Riverview, N.E., has come up with a homegrown solution to the high cost of commercial tobacco cultivating his own. And now, he has started selling his plants to the public. Each costs 50 cents and usually yields enough raw material to fill a seven-ounce can with processed, dried tobacco. New Brunswickers pay the highest tobacco prices in Canada—between \$7.50 and \$8 for a pack of 20. Said Jones: "Most people who phone us complain that they are fed up with taxes." He added: "The final product doesn't always taste like the manufactured stuff, but it is getting better all the time."

TERMS OF ENDEARMENT

Last fall, Jerry MacDonald, executive officer of the Timmins-based Canadian Wire Service Guild, sent a letter to Claude LaRoque, its assistant director of corporate relations at the CBC in Ottawa. Although the letter detailed important labor-management issues, its opening was distinctly unbecomingly: "Dear [name]," the letter began. Mac Donald apologized for his rudeness in a follow-up letter to LaRoque. He substituted the name to a new secretary, Steve McDonald. "I must be firm if I am despised. As you will know, Claude, if I had any-



LaRoque: apology issued for error

LaRoque: apology



thing disrespectful to say, I would say it in your face." But someone leaked the apology to Harper's magazine, whose editor, Laura Lipman, reported it in full this month. Said David O'Neil, president of the 1,000-member union: "We don't know who sent it to Harper's. We can only assume that someone at the CBC did it." He added that MacDonald's apology originally went to six high-ranking CBC officials, including LaRoque and president Gerald Veinua. LaRoque also denies knowledge of how the magazine obtained it. "When I got the [report] from MacDonald," he said, "I considered the matter closed." A word never got shared by everyone.

HARD TIMES IN THE TOWNSHIPS

Conservative Senator Michel Ceggar's troubles continue to grow. A long-time friend of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney who has pressed against an investigation by the RCMP into certain business dealings, Ceggar is in danger of losing his 200-acre estate in Quebec's Eastern Townships. A Quebec Superior Court ruled in mid-April that the senator must provide \$204,000 on a debuffed mortgage or give the property up to the Toronto-Dominion Bank. From his Montreal office last week, Ceggar told Montreal's that he preferred not to discuss the matter, but he confirmed that he is still working on a plan to save the property located near Knowlton. Said Ceggar, who was co-chairman of the Tory election campaign in 1988: "You'll just have to keep wondering about me."

A penny-wise premier

Even before he became premier of Nova Scotia last February, Donald Cameron enjoyed a well-deserved reputation as a penny-pincher. But some critics say that Cameron has taken his penny-pinching to extremes by cancelling his Conservative government's first three speeches, which otherwise would have been held on May 18. Said MP Leader Allan Rock: "It's state-of-the-art. It's an admission they have no plan." But Cameron says that dispensing with the speech is a cost-saving measure: a single sitting of the legislature costs \$7,000 a day. And, he noted, three speeches usually open long, often futile debates. Added Cameron: "You know, as minister who the government is, [party members] will tell you it was the best speech ever. The opposition said it was the worst speech ever, and then we argued it was the best or the worst." Talk is not cheap.



Cameron: saving money on a speech

A world apart

The Manitoba Coalition of Organizations Against Apartheid wants Winnipeg's 58-year-old Cecil Rhodes School



Mandela: name change

renamed after black nationalist Nelson Mandela. According to spokesman Richard Moore, the name of Rhodes, a British scientist who founded the De Beers diamond company in southern Africa and whose segregationist policies contributed to the creation of apartheid, has become untenable. The coalition has not yet set its sights on the Rhodes Scholarship.



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COLUMN



Freeing the fish from the government net

BY DIANE FRANCIS

Personal finances in Canada's Atlantic provinces are fine, but between and mostly unemployed. A prominent exception is John Riley, the 46-year-old proprietor of Clearwater Fine Foods Inc. in Bedford, N.S. Riley is a successful entrepreneur who says that "hard work" allowed him to parlay a seafood restaurant he opened in 1976 with \$15,000 in borrowed money into a \$125-million-a-year seafood conglomerate with 3,000 workers. Clearwater makes money, but the same cannot be said of others in the fishing business who are, like the rest of us, over-indebted, overtaxed and increasingly over-regulated. Atlantic fishing is undergoing a serious shakeout as plants close and fishermen go bust. Worse yet, even where there is work, unemployment insurance benefits reduce manpower availability as workers routinely quit after they have reached up the required weeks' worth of employer. Says Riley: "Some 40 per cent of our seasonal workers stay 10 weeks, qualify for aid and go. They believe it's their God-given right to live off EIC for one year. It's very sad."

Besides a poor work ethic, an even greater problem is over-regulation. It makes his point, Riley says that the total value of the catch in the Atlantic provinces is \$900 million a year; about \$140 million more than the size of the federal department of fishery's budget. Cull harvests do everything from determining how much fish should be caught in a year, and by whom, to decreasing catch sizes and handling out export permits. In 1990, there were 41,356 full- and part-time fishermen in the Atlantic region (including Quebec), who earned considerably less money than the 6,750 federal and provincial civil servants whose jobs make these fishermen's lives more complicated. Ottawa's fishery department alone employs 6,000 people. Of course, to be fair, the federal fishery department also makes the business of another 20,000 registered fishermen in the Pacific and inland regions. Across Canada there is about one fishtrap-out for every 13 fishermen. If the many

'Who are we saving fish for? In winter they go to the United States. Why save fish for the Americans? They do not save them for us.'

politicians polled the Canadian population, we would have about two million cops, instead of the 50,000 we do have. Concern about overfishing, or depleting the resource, has led to a federal catch-quota system, noted out boat by boat, and a licensing system to limit the number of fishermen. But while Riley and others agree with the principle of conservation, they say that bureaucrats have taken the total value of their business property. From 1985 until 1990, the federal fisheries department sets, the number of boats and fishermen in Atlantic Canada increased marginally, while the quota shrank by 19 per cent. In essence, more players wanted a piece of a shrinking market with predictable results. "Now the average fisherman makes \$9,000 a year and supplements his living with unemployment insurance benefits," says Henry Demme, president of National Sea Products Ltd. "Isn't it better to have one-third as many fishing, but earning \$27,000 a year?"

Independent fisherman Daniel LeBlanc, whose family company, Union Fisheries Inc., operates out of Miramichi in southwestern New Brunswick, exemplifies the problems facing many small operators. LeBlanc, 38, has fished with his father since he was 12 years old. Now

he owns a \$1-million, 45-foot dragger and says that he is unable to make a living from the meagre quotas he has been given. To make ends meet, he issues out his boat to others who have not filed their quotas. "My quota is 265,000 lb. (a year), and so that I make an average of 40 cents a pound. That's a gross of \$106,000," says LeBlanc. "I once put my quota in two four-day trips with four men on board. The rest of the time, I leave out my boat."

LeBlanc adds that Ottawa's quotas are too low. "They don't have a clue how much fish is out there," he claims. "They go in June, the wrong time of the year. They measure the wrong depths. The last year I've offered to let them come aboard my vessel, but they don't want to come so they don't see how much fish is out there."

Sometimes regulation reaches comic proportions. Says LeBlanc: "One year, they stopped us fishing the Georges Bank because the fish were too big. They said, 'You cannot take the mothers because there will be no babies, and there will be no fish next year.' So next year we went back, and they stopped us again because we couldn't find big ones, only small fish. I said to them, 'These quotas are one way which kinds of fish should go into our travels.' It's just ridiculous."

National Sea's Demme echoes the same concerns about the regulators' quota-measuring methods. "It's nonsense," he says, "and like '100-4' water, and they do a stock survey in November when the water may be too cold for cod. So they catch very few and set a low quota because they say there are no fish there. But there are fish just not there [at the time of measurement] because the water's too cold."

Ottawa should adopt measuring techniques used by other countries, notably the United States, where commercial fishermen are used to establish quotas. And quotas should not be noted out. Once an overall quota is set, the fishermen should be free to compete for the catch. Concerns that the little guy, or small fishermen, will be beaten by the big offshore businesses are different. Says LeBlanc, an offshore fisherman, "There should be one big quota, and let everyone go at it," he adds. "In the old days, there were complaints about too many boats, and stocks went down. But then the big fishermen got out of the business. Now it's different. There are too many boats, not because they cannot fish, but because of government regulation. Who are we saving fish for? We fish 30 miles from the American border, and in winter the fish go to the United States. Why save fish for the Americans? They don't need them for us."

The Atlantic, in other words, Canada's Atlantic fishing region is second only to Alaska in value of the catch, and yet fishermen have turned it into a gigantic problem scheme at great expense to other taxpayers. Clearly, the industry must be partially deregulated and federal bureaucrats removed at the same time. Although less well-perpetrated a system of government handouts and industry handshakes. Unless conditions improve, the only ones in fishing who will continue to land a shipper will be escape-building bureaucrats.



Mulroney with native children in Victoria: national diversity, economic disparity and personal responsibility

CANADA

FIGHTING BACK

For Prime Minister Jean Mulroney and British Columbia native leader Bill Wilson, it was a level moment of shared equanimity. After Mulroney addressed more than 300 native leaders in Victoria last week, welcoming them for a special conference to study native grievances, he was warmly greeted with reserved silence. But when Wilson, the chairman of the First Nations Congress of British Columbia, rose after the speech, he referred to Mulroney's 59-year-old mother, Bebe, who recently underwent multiple-bypass heart surgery. Then, pausing to wipe his own sweat—also who has also suffered heart problems—was sitting in the audience, Wilson added in a cracked voice, "I cannot imagine life without her. At times like this, we must remember the things that really matter." Mulroney, clearly touched, nodded appreciatively. But moments later, Wilson returned to a colder stance. In response to Mulroney's promise of a royal commission, he blandly asked for assurances that the inquiry would do more than simply "take issues you are incapable of dealing with immediately."

Such large challenges need small comforts

MULRONEY SHIFTS TO THE OFFENSIVE IN ADVANCE OF A NEW SITTING OF PARLIAMENT

Marked a new campaign by Mulroney and his government to shift to the political offensive in advance of a new sitting of Parliament. In the first week after shuffling more than half of his cabinet on April 23, the Prime Minister made a passionate pro-unity speech in Calgary before representatives at Victoria and Vancouver. The prime minister, and a senior adviser, was to "demonstrate our willingness to deal head-on with the things that bug people the most." Laying these issues in the critical challenges of national

diversity. But the cabinet also followed by others, including native governments, the private state of the economy, the future role of the armed forces—and the personal tragedy that many ordinary Canadians express towards Mulroney himself.

And even as the Mulroney government tried to gain control of the political agenda, it faced from opponents of dissent on many fronts. In addition to the immediate skepticism that greeted the Prime Minister's promised royal commission on native complaints, his choice of Quebec air and former communications minister Marcel Masse as his new defense minister provoked criticism from military experts and political observers alike. Meanwhile, on military matters was driven home here in the week when Vice-Admiral Charles Thomas, the head of defense staff, unexpectedly resigned in protest over a supposed restructuring of the armed forces (page 16). On the same day, Mulroney's constitutional approach also drew criticism. Ontario Premier Bob Rae described as a "serious mistake" Mulroney's dismissal, during a network encounter with reporters, of proposals endorsed by Rae for a

constitutional assembly to discuss constitutional change.

The full extent of the government's unpopularity was made plain when Gallup Canada Inc. reported the results of an early-April poll that showed Mulroney's Conservatives at last place among divided respondents. Only 14 per cent of the poll respondents favored the Tories compared with 16 per cent for the Reform Party of Canada—which still does not have any formal organization in much of the country. Both were well behind the Liberals, with 39 per cent support, and the New Party with 28. With the calling of a general election not expected until late 1993, Mulroney dismissed these results as irrelevant. But he tacitly acknowledged the Reform party's surge in appeal during his stop in Calgary, where he sought out the Alberta-based party for a harsh critique. "The common ground between this Quebec separatist and the leaders of the Reform party," declared Mulroney, "is that the road to their success

pro Mexico and the United States is dependent on a constant trade pact. Wilson told a Montreal business audience that Canada would not respect the Free Trade Agreement with the United States in the course of these negotiations—and in particular would not agree to restrict dress in the 1993 that are designed to protect Canada's culture.

Mulroney's Victoria address on native discontent served to underscore the importance that he and his advisers attach to their issue. Native leaders have warned that potential flash points in several provinces could erupt into eruptions of last summer's violent confrontation between Mohawks and federal and provincial authorities in Oka, Que. And last week, a gathering of native leaders in Toronto recorded a list of complaints to Indian Affairs Minister Thomas Shellen—who refused his participation in the shuffle—before asking the federal government to sign a nationwide treaty with Indians granting them limited sovereignty embedded on that accord to native groups in the United States. "The only thing stopping them," declared Georges Erasmus, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, "is political will."

For his part, Mulroney appears to be counting on the new steps he outlined earlier last week to forestall any further native violence. The centerpiece of the measures will be the proposed royal commission, which Mulroney hinted will be headed by former New Democratic Party leader Ed Broadbent. Mulroney also announced that he would speed up the consideration of B.C. water aid claims, with the total aim of settling all such claims by the year 2006. As well, Mulroney promised to increase federal spending on native programs, currently \$4 billion a year, by more than \$1 billion over the next three years—and give native leaders more greater control over the way that money is spent.

Declared Mulroney, "We will work to ensure that the Canada being built for the 21st century will include and govern by aboriginal peoples." But Mulroney's speech also reflected anxiety key element in the Tories' hopes for recovery at the polls. The Prime Minister plans more trips beyond Ottawa to confront his detractors face-to-face. Said one adviser "If he shows he is willing to take a few shots, people might think that the devil they know is better than the one they don't know, but that's not the idea." It was an acknowledgment, too, for the business-dwelling Tories, there really is a most awkward job to go out to

ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH is in Paris

National Notes

GETTY'S GAMBIT

Following a meeting in Montreal, Alberta Premier Donald Getty told that Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa that told him that a clear majority of Quebecers will want to be part of Canada. Getty had demanded such an assurance before Albertan stepped in as a new round of constitutional talks.

AN AUSTRIAN BUDGET

Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky's government tabled a 96th-billion-dollar budget that slashed 600 government jobs, reduced 100 salaries and increased taxes, and capped wage increases for provincial employees. Still, the budget projected a \$10-billion deficit on 1993 spending of \$4.7 billion and pushed the province's accumulated debt to \$5.2 billion.

QUEBEC'S PARK FUROR

Ontario Solicitor General Michael Fournier rejected opposition demands that he resign pending an RCMP investigation into allegations of obstruction of justice involving his office. Attorney General Howard Hampton asked for the inquiry over the release of two letters sent from Fournier's constituency office in Cambridge, Ont., to justices of the peace, asking them to reconsider parking tickets issued to two of Fournier's constituents. Staff members had signed Fournier's name to the letters.

A COSTLY CONVICTION

Documents released by the Quebec government showed that last year's 73-day arrest standoff with Mohawks near Montreal cost Quebec taxpayers more than \$1.1 million, \$71.5 million of it to pay for overtime wages for the provincial police.

CONTINUOUS REMARKS

Women's groups in British Columbia denounced that B.C. Supreme Court Justice Sherman. Based in Vancouver, the bench was criticized for not making a finding of a man shot guilty of sexual assault. Declaring that the alleged victim did not resist the man advances strongly enough, Hood said that the ruling practice is "a bit too much like a 'yes' or 'no' answer." He added: "At times, 'yes' may mean 'Maybe,' or 'Wait a while'."

AFTER INDIANS, BLACKS?

After Nova Scotia Conservative Premier Donald Cameron reinforced the plea of a seat in the legislature dedicated to Nova Scotia's 8,000 African Indians, some leaders of the province's 15,000-people black community denounced a seat of their own. Don Cameron said that he is open to other minorities.

Shots across the bow

The short exchange between Canada's top military leaders was evidence of a deepening trouble in the country's defence establishment. Cstg's plan to restructure the military that he termed "simply not good enough" in a letter Europe's letter sent to his superior on April 26, Vice-Chief of Defence Staff Vice-Admiral Charles Thomas submitted his resignation as the nation's second most powerful military officer. The next day, in a stiffly worded reply, Chief of Staff Gen. John de Chastelain accepted Thomas' resignation. Although de Chastelain told Thomas that he would "miss your counsel, your leadership and the friendship we have had in these past years," he also said that he particularly "admire" that you should choose this moment "to make this unhappy decision."

Thomson's main concern was what he charged would be plain to further reduce the capacity of a once-proud Canadian navy by scrapping all these submarines and in placing destroyers with smaller coastal vessels. But he also cited larger questions, stating that there needs to be a public debate about "the kind of defence force that country will need." The department of national defence has been hit by a succession of federal budgets that will cut billions from defence spending. Early in April, another cut was slapped in those cuts with a plan for changes that, military sources say, would slash armed forces personnel by one-fifth, and further reduce the number of

sublimely beats at home—and possibly abroad as well. But these war-torn franks astonishment among senior staff last week at the April 22 appointment to the defense ministry of former minister of culture Marcel Bleuse, a man some critics called eminently unsuited to the assignment. Reflecting on the appointment, retired vice-admiral Daniel Mougey, a former vice-chief of defense staff, observed: "I don't like the way things are heading at all."

The resignation of Thomas, 34, a native of Kelowna, B.C., was a rare event in Canadian military affairs. No armor staff officer had resigned to protest government policy since the introduction of the Furze in 1967. Indeed, the resignation came as a surprise even to Thomas's friends. But Thomas wrote that the threats to the military merit of such a gesture. Declared Thomas: "I will not support proposals that will lead our people into harm's way without the tools to do the job."

In fact, there is no firm evidence that Canadian service personnel have been unperturbed for lack of resources. Still, the armed forces closely face rubst surgery. A 1987 white paper that set out the country's security needs in usually Cold War terms was disabed after the

1988 federal election. Then, the 2009 federal budget presented a \$2.7-billion cut in defence spending—currently about \$12.8 billion a year—over a five-year period. And on April 9, the federal cabinet considered—and sent back for further study—the own staff proposal that Thomas cited. That plan would meet the government's spending target by slashing the country's military.

Bornos in the defence community say that the proposals would reduce uniformed personnel to 70,000 from the current 87,800. Several military bases would also close, and there has been speculation that three of 12 frigates ordered for the navy may not be built.

For his part, Meuse confirmed on Friday that the government is reconsidering military cuts, but refused to discuss the proposals in detail. Said Meuse: "It's difficult to talk about figures because the decision has not been made and the analysis is still under way." Meuse himself was the object of criticism during the week from observers who said that he lacked any military experience—or apparent interest. Still, Thorelli told friends that his resignation was unconnected with Meuse's appointment, and even complimented the minister's grasp of his new assignment.

But Meuse's statement only retarded speculation that, in addition to cuts in domestic defence, the Tories may also be preparing for the eventual closure of Canadian Forces bases in Germany. Declared Alun Morrison, executive director of the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies in Toronto, "If you are looking in cuts of any real severity to the military, that would almost certainly mean bringing nearly everyone home from Germany."

Other experts said that sweeping reform of the Canadian military is unavoidable — and perhaps desirable. Toronto military consultant Brian MacDonnell, for one, says that Canada has almost three times the proportion of senior officers to other military ranks as do such nations as Germany and the United States. "If this were private industry," said MacDonnell, "there would be a bloody axe swinging through their personnel side."

Ironically, the controversy over the future of the armed forces comes at a time when their reputation stands at its highest point in decades, following disciplined performances in the Gulf War and last summer's Mohawis Indian crisis. Indeed, so welcoming troops home from the Gulf, Prime Minister James Mackenzie hailed their "professionalism and bravery in keeping with the best traditions of the Canadian Forces."

GLEN ALLEN and **ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH** and **E. KATE ELLISON** in *Others*

[illegible]

Thomas: Acting
catholic / satirical



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TO SAVE THE KURDS

FEAR IS KEEPING KURDISH REFUGEES FROM RETURNING TO IRAQ DESPITE HUSSEIN'S PROMISE OF SECURITY

"I never even knew the Kurds existed a year ago. Now, I'll never forget."

Pin Shelby Gero, a 31-year-old Canadian Forces soldier from Anders, N.S., might have been speaking for all the thousands of Americans, British, Dutch, French and Canadian troops involved in the massive effort to help Kurdish refugees across the mountainous Iraq-Turkish border. And Mohamed Nauf, a grizzled Kurdish clan elder, clearly spoke for many of those estimated two million refugees who he issued deep misgivings about Iraq President Saddam Hussein's promise of autonomy, democracy and security for the Kurds in a liberalized Iraq. "If the Western people will give us guarantees, we will go back," said Nauf at the sprawling and squalid Iskandariya refugee camp inside Turkey. "Otherwise, not." In Washington and other Western capitals last week, officials echoed Nauf's doubts about Hussein's sincerity in agreeing to peace terms with Kurdish rebel leaders in Baghdad. And as a demonstration of those doubts, coalition countries forced Hussein to pull his troops out of Zakho, where the allies declared a safety zone for the refugees when they are trying to leave down from the mountains.

The next to persuade the Kurds to move to more secure locations with remained quiet, even despondent. Relief workers estimated that up to 2,000,000 Kurds, mostly children and old people, were dying daily from exposure, hunger and disease. By contrast, in the hill-dotted refugee camps that the allies were beginning to establish inside Iraq, the Kurds would be guaranteed adequate food, shelter and medical attention. But the persistence of the camps within the safety zone clearly worried UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Last Friday, he expressed the hope that the United Nations



U.S. soldiers unloading supplies near Zakho. "Incredible amount of work to do"

would take over their administration in "a question of days." But President George Bush appeared unconcerned about Perez de Cuellar's warnings over the legitimacy of the U.S. intervention. Bush told reporters that U.S. troops would remain in northern Iraq "for as long as it takes to make sure these refugees are being taken care of." And one of his secret aims, on condition of anonymity, made the same point more vividly. "I wouldn't trust Saddam Hussein to help his grandchildren across the street," he said. Likewise.

Although the immediate future of the Kur-

dis refugees remained uncertain, there was relief for another group of people with reason to fear the wrath of Hussein. As U.S. forces continued their phased withdrawal from occupied southern Iraq, the South Arabian government offered sanctuary to thousands of Iraqi-Basran troops who had been sheltering under the Stars and Stripes. Most of the refugees took flight as Basran's forces crushed Shiite rebellions in Basra and other major southern cities in March. Others were Iraqi soldiers who had deserted. The Saudis offered to house as many as 50,000 troops in camps on their side of

the border. The U.S. air force was preparing to deliver the first of these refugees to their new sanctuary in week's end.

For to the north, in the region known as Kurdistan, a 63-member Canadian Forces medical team was part of the multinational relief effort to help the Kurds. The Canadians, who flew in last week from their base in Tabuk, Germany, split up into small groups, knocking out aid missions to help the work. One group of 17 went to Zakho, the Iraq border city that was the scene of a four-day

camp. "As long as one Iraqi remains," said Kurdish activist, Muhammad Saoud, "the town will not be safe."

Meanwhile, another group of 37 Canadian medics traveled 180 km in trucks and four field ambulances over perilous mountain roads to a camp in Tikrit, on the Turkish side of the border. Petty Officer David Taylor, acting up a 30-bed field hospital with his colleagues, declared, "There's an incredible amount of work to be done."

In Washington, Bush expressed confidence that the Iraqis knew what they were doing when they established these safety zones and filled them with returning Kurds. "I don't think Saddam Hussein is dumb enough to want to run into U.S. troops again," said Bush. He added that it was "only terror" that kept Hussein in power, and called more aggressive measures. "I hope it happens soon," said Bush, "because we want him out of there."

In restoring his earlier appeals for Hussein's ouster, Bush seemed to make a reversal of the widespread criticism that he was willing to ignore rebellion but not to support it. As some analysts depicted it, the Kurds' long-term struggle lay in continuing negotiations between Hussein and the rebel leadership. The crisis in Baghdad last week ended in an optimistic declaration of an agreement in principle that would give the Kurds autonomy, democratic institutions and significant representation in the central government. But the two sides had yet to work out critical details, including the distribution of autonomy and the boundaries of the Kurdish region. And given Hussein's record of cheating on promises, it was likely that the Kurds would demand international guarantees.

Many Western observers expressed disappointment as well. "Saddam Hussein, as a condition of autonomy," Saoud will promise the most, but will keep the promise only so long as it is convenient. No one knows what better than the Kurds, and we have no intention of leaving them with nothing stronger than Saddam's promise." Under these circumstances, it seemed that, whatever their original intentions, the Western allies were now firmly committed in an open-ended commitment to protect Iraq's beleaguering Kurds.

JOHN DEERMAN and **WILLIAM LOWMYER** in Washington and correspondents reports.

World Notes

OBSTACLES TO PEACE

On his third Middle East tour since the end of the Persian Gulf War, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Friday that he has yet to state differences between Israel and Syria on how to negotiate a Middle East peace conference. Syria continues to insist that the United Nations act as an arbiter of disputes, a demand that Israel has rejected. Meanwhile, Baker sharply criticized Israel for its efforts to Jews to establish a new settlement in the occupied West Bank. Said Baker: "It is not clear to abstract peace than to promote it."

EARTHQUAKE TERROR

A powerful earthquake cut a path of destruction across Costa Rica and Panama, killing at least 75 people and injuring more than 800 others. The quake, which measured about 7.2 on the open-ended Richter scale, was the most devastating to hit Costa Rica since 1916, when about 600 people were killed.

KOMI IN CRISIS

Germany's Christian Democratic government suffered a serious setback when the opposition Social Democrats won elections in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's home state of Rheinland-Pfalz. The vote, which took place shortly after Kohl increased taxes after pledging not to during last year's general election campaign, topped the balance of power in the federal Bundestag, the upper house of parliament, giving the opposition the power to block key legislation.

THE PRICE OF POLLUTION

A federal judge threw out a plea-bargained settlement between the U.S. justice department and Exxon under which the Texas-based oil company agreed to pay \$135 million to settle criminal charges arising from a March, 1990, oil spill. The Exxon Valdez tanker ran aground in Alaska's Prince William Sound, dumping 11 million gallons of crude oil and fouling miles of coastline. Judge James R. Anderson called the settlement "simply not adequate." As an Exxon official said that the firm would not reopen negotiations and was preparing to go to trial.

AB TO VIETNAM

For the first time since the war ended in 1975, the United States announced that it will provide direct aid to Vietnam: \$115 million for pro-democratic efforts for supporters. Washington continues to maintain a trade embargo against Vietnam, denying the country's access to many goods, such as foreign high-tech equipment and loans from international lenders.



Gorbachev: Yeltsin (labor union) will surely test the new accord

THE SOVIET UNION

An unlikely alliance

Gorbachev and Yeltsin strike a deal

In recent months, Mikhail Gorbachev has been wiffing a political lightning. Tossing between the irreconcilable demands of Communist hard-liners for a return to rigid ideology and those of reformers arguing for more democracy, the Soviet president's vulnerabilities has played to one— and has left him vulnerable to a fall. But last week, an unlikely ally provided him with a welcome safety net. Boris Yeltsin, the maverick president of the post-Soviet Russian republic and the Soviet leader's archnemesis on the left, joined Gorbachev and eight other republican leaders in appealing to coal miners to end a crippling eight-week strike. Yeltsin's support proved crucial when, last Thursday, hardline Communists at a Central Committee meeting accused the Soviet leader's *perestroika* reforms of wrecking havoc on the economy and stripping the party of its authority. Gorbachev, clearly emboldened by his new alliance, called his critics' bluff by offering to resign as Communist party general secretary. That plainly stunned the oligarchs, who voted 322 to 13 to keep Gorbachev a proposal off the agenda.

Once again, the Soviet president demonstrated his talent for survival, a political alibi that will save secret limbs in the months ahead. After an emergency meeting in a dacha outside Moscow early last week, Gorbachev and the leaders of nine of the 15 republics issued a joint declaration giving broad approval to what he has called his "anti-crisis program." The plan, which charts a cautious transition to a market economy, includes a ban on all strikes in return for their support, the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, Byelorussia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Tadzhikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan won several economic and political concessions. Among them: the rapid conclusion of a union treaty settling relations between the republics and the national government, and early elections for the national parliament and the presidency.

As well, the agreement called for the cessation of an unpopular (one-per-cent) sales tax on basic consumer goods, and reconsideration of recent price rises. Leaders of the six independent, state-backed republics, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Georgia, Armenia and Moldova, did not

sign the declaration. "Unfortunately," Gorbachev told parliament, "these republics who remain outside the frame work must face the question of how to organize their relations with the union."

The agreement was clearly aimed at mollifying striking workers who are demanding not only wage increases, but also Gorbachev's resignation. At week's end, a slow-motion results. Thousands of workers in the Byelorussian capital of Minsk suspended their strikes after three days. But across Russia, as many as 50 million workers took part in a one-hour walkout to protest poor living conditions and major price increases. And nationwide, an estimated 200,000 coal miners continued to stay off the job.

Yeltsin described his deal with Gorbachev as "a major victory" for the republics. But at the same time, Khasanov told him, the most radical regions in strike, a spokesman accused Yeltsin, who had previously supported their demands, of having turned against them. "The strike committee sent a telegram to Yeltsin demanding an explanation to the joint declaration," said Alexander Semenov, a member of the local strike committee. "It turns out Yeltsin gave it to Gorbachev. I can only say that he deceived us."

In Washington, an expert on the Soviet economy also expressed misgivings. Anders Aslund, director of the Stockholm Institute of Soviet and East European Economics, characterized the Gorbachev-Yeltsin pact as a temporary political expedient to stave off challenges from hard-liners. He said that the pact, which could roll back price increases and index increases to protect workers from inflation, would also widen the country's budget deficit, now at 15 to 20 per cent of the Soviet gross national product. Declined Yeltsin: "It is really difficult to suggest a worse economic policy than the Soviet government currently practices."

Still, some analysts pointed out positive results from the pact declaration. For one, it signalled that Gorbachev is now ready to compromise with republican leaders on such critical issues as economic and political reform. For another, Yeltsin's dramatic reversal from political gadfly to Gorbachev supporter indicated that he now acknowledges that the best way to solve the country's pressing problems is to cooperate with the center. But continuing labor unrest will surely test the new alliance. And with hard-line Communists threatening renewed opposition to any leftward shift, Gorbachev will clearly have to continue his high-wire balancing act.

ANDREW BALZKE with correspondents' reports



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THE UNITED STATES

David vs. Goliath

The Bradys take on the powerful gun lobby

He leaves the dimly lit corridors of the Capitol, wheeled toward, with a limousine, a speech, a car, and a singular crime. Working with his wife, Sarah, James Brady has become a staunch crusader—and a kind of poster boy, as well—for gun-control legislation. "I consider myself a visual," says the 56-year-old Brady, a former White House press secretary. On March 30, 1981, a disgraced father named John Hinckley, holding a 22-caliber revolver that he had bought for \$33 at a pawnshop, shot Brady in the head while also wounding his real target, President Ronald Reagan. And last week, just over 10 years after he lay paralyzed in a pool of blood outside a Washington hotel, Brady gave the thumbs-up as the House Judiciary committee voted 23 to 11 to support the so-called Brady bill, which would impose a compulsory seven-day waiting period on handgun purchases. As he sobbed out of the wood-paneled committee room, Brady, glancing weakly at his chair, told Maclean's: "The less people that have to ride around in these limos, the better off it'll be for America."

In a sense, the Bradys are playing David to the National Rifle Association's Goliath. The NRA, the Washington-based gun lobby that boasts nearly three million members and the power to make or break legislation, has taken aim at the Brady bill, arguing that it infringes on the Second Amendment right. "To keep and bear arms." But the bill has won the support of law enforcement associations and big-city mayors across the country and, in March, received an unexpected endorsement from a longtime NRA member—Reagan himself. Even President George Bush has said that he would "forgo his cherished veto of the measure if Congress, in return, agrees to pass his anti-crime package, which would expand the number of crimes punishable by the death penalty and limit appeals by death-row in-

mates. Still, the Brady bill's backers say that they expect a fierce battle when it reaches the full House or the president's veto in early May, and later when it goes to the Senate. "It's going to be a big job," says Charles Schumer, chairman of the House crime and criminal justice subcommittee. "This is a close, close, close vote."



Security officer (right) and Brady (behind) felled in Reagan assassination attempt; deadly

And I'll be happy if we win by one vote." There is no doubting that handguns are killing Americans in alarming numbers. In 1980, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, they were the weapon of choice in the murders of 1,841 strangers aged 15 to 19, up from 1,025 in 1964. And gun-wielding people are attacking more as many blacks as whites, even though blacks represent only 13 percent of the American population (page 28). In fact, more than 60 percent of

black male teenagers who died between 1980 and 1987 were gunshot victims. Dr. Sandra Eakin, chief of the trauma unit at the District of Columbia General Hospital, expressed her revulsion at the carnage. "It is a feeling of anger, disgust and helplessness," she said. "You bring people back from the throes of death, and they go right back out there and kill again."

But the issue at the heart of the Brady bill debate is whether a seven-day waiting period would really be effective in curbing handgun deaths. Gun-control advocates say that it would. They argue that the bill, the first federal measure to restrict handgun sales since the 1960s, offers a one-week, so-called cooling-off period that would allow potential killers to reconsider their actions between the time that they apply to buy a handgun and their final purchase. The gun dealer would also inform



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lives and prevent tens of thousands of crippling injuries. Brady, pictured yesterday in his wheelchair, also contends that "too many members of Congress are afraid of the gun lobby"—and too easy accept the lobbyist's campaign money.

In fact, some analysts in Washington now say that Brady's endorsement of the Brady bill could provide political camouflage for congressmen who fear the NRA's retaliation at re-election time. Harassed by internal disputes and filing membership, the pro-bill may not be quite as formidable as opposed to it was in 1983, when Congress defeated an earlier version of the Brady bill. Still, the organization has launched a concerted campaign to defeat it again. NRA lobbyists expect that the bill would not compel the police to make background checks and that, in any case, the vast majority of criminals buy their guns not from stores but on the black market. They cite such studies as one by Tulane University sociologist James Wingo, who found that only 17 percent of a sample of convicted felons bought their handguns from licensed gun-dealers. Dedicated the NRA's legislative director, Wayne LaPierre, "I think this bill is a waste of time."

Against such a formidable war chest—an estimated \$50 million in annual funding, compared with less than \$7 million for the Brady's group—the NRA has needed no hand-

icuffs. When they attempt to tip the patriotic fervor that propelled the United States during the Persian Gulf War, they quote the liberators of Kuwait with the rights of America's 40 to 70 million pistol and revolv-



Sarah and James Brady: stark determination

ers—or, about one U.S. household in four has a handgun. And the NRA has launched a counteroffensive by backing the so-called Staggers bill. Named for Representative Harley Staggers, the West Virginia Democrat, who

sponsors it, the bill would require gun dealers, at the point of purchase, to perform an instant check of computerized police records to ensure no connects. But many law enforcement officials dismiss the Staggers bill as a costly and inconceivable venture, noting that only three out of the 50 states have computerized police records that could be tapped instantly. And in November, 1989, Attorney General Richard Thornburgh reported that it would take up to 10 years to computerize all the records—at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. Said Police Commissioner Brown, "The Staggers bill is totally unrealistic."

Despite the NRA's counteroffensive, James and Sarah Brady express stark determination to push their bill through Congress. It has been a tough fight. During a speech at George Washington University in March, hecklers hurled epithets at 49-year-old Sarah Brady, calling her a "bitch" and a "sluthead," and prompting her 13-year-old son, James Jr., to jump up on stage to defend her.

Raised by a conservative, middle-class family in Alexandria, Va., Sarah Brady seems an unlikely warrior in the gun-control camp. But the bullet that pierced her husband's brain also transformed the perfect woman into an unexpected crusader. She recalls that her quest is not an attempt to manage the wounds that she suffered from her husband's brutal death. "No, it's not therapy," she told MacKenzie. "I don't need therapy. I got over my frustration. I grieved like we all do when you lose a person and get over that and have no bitterness." But she added, "I do feel it's important. I think it's ridiculous that we as a society don't do something about the violence." The question, as congressmen prepared to act on the Brady bill, was whether they would take their advice from David—or Goliath.

HELENE MACKENZIE is in Washington

'TO BE KILLED LIKE A DOG'

On East Capitol Street, in the heart of a grim Washington ghetto where residents have grown accustomed to the sight of drug dealing and the sound of gunfire, 34-year-old Wilmona Williams wept away tears in the recalled how she was and two grandsons had been murdered over the past 24 years. She has just eight grandchildren from the white-downed Capitol building, where congressmen last week were debating the so-called Brady bill, which would establish a seven-day waiting period for handgun purchases. But Williams, surveying the sorrowful neighborhood from her modest single housing unit, said that legislation seemed inadequate—even irrelevant. "So many youngsters get shot to death," she said, hugging three-year-old Bernice, one of her 20 great-grandchildren. "It's just so

and, I don't know what the solution is—I don't think Congress has it."

In a country where black men are six times as likely to be homicide victims as white men, weapons control is at best a second part of the solution to the more acute problem: the deadly cycle of poverty, drug use, and crime. Decried Lewis Ruffolo, the U.S. secretary of health and human services, "During every 100 hours on our streets, we have more young men than were killed in 100 hours of ground war in the Persian Gulf. Where are the yellow ribbons of hope and remembrance for our youth dying in the streets?"

For Williams, who raised eight children alone while working at a dry cleaner and at other jobs, there is every cause for remembrance. On Feb. 27, 1989, two secondary men shot her 22-year-old son, Alvin, through the heart as he walked in Paradise Park at dawn. No one was ever arrested. The young man at her son's body on a corpse TV monitor, she says, is lodged in her head like a bullet. Three weeks later, her 16-year-old grandson Reg-

inal was shot just as Alvin as he played for his life with a 16-year-old gangster, who is now serving a life sentence for his crime.

And one year later, she said, another grandson, 23-year-old Steven, was shot in the back as he walked away from an argument on a basketball court after school hours. It happened on a month's later. A message is swirling into this incident. "You said, 'It's just heart because they do such a horrible death,'" Williams said. "If they were sick, or in a reasonable accident, you can accept that. But to be killed like a dog—that hurts them."

Looking past her flowered curtains, Williams could see a low-slung fireway crack house next door and drug dealers loitering on the street. "Guns are secondary," she said. "They need to get rid of the drugs and clean up the streets." But on Capitol Hill, these concerns were drowned out by the loud battle over handguns.

R. M.

In the cross hairs

Gun owners fight stricter weapons control

The early-morning murder was the latest in a growing legacy of deaths involving firearms. At 7:00 a.m. on April 18, before a cluster of terrified children leaving their school bus, a Gloucester, Ont., truck driver gunned down his wife outside the couple's two-house. Then, 38-year-old Paul Douglas, estranged from his 30-year-old spouse, flew, sat down on the curb and lamed his severed-off 18-pgnt shotgun on himself. These shootings in Gloucester occurred just four days after an earlier spree in which a man armed with a .357 magnum revolver killed four people in communities north of Montreal, but were killed himself. The Gloucester deaths happened less than a month after a man killed two men and a woman with an assault rifle in a Calgary parking lot on March 19. The grim tally led Ontario Police Chief Thomas Flanagan to conclude: "The more these things occur, the more likely we are to have stringent gun-control laws." And Flanagan, a spokesman for the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, added "It's about time we did."

Flanagan's opinion is widespread. Police officials,

an increasingly vocal gun-control lobby and the federal government all seek stricter laws on firearms. Federal spokesmen say that the government will likely initiate more stringent provincial legislation later this spring. For its part, the public clearly agrees with tighter gun controls: a Gallup poll released on April 15 showed that 79 per cent of Canadians favor more restrictive gun laws. Still, that poll faces opposition from hunters, gun collectors and others across the country who argue that gun controls penalize them for rising crime rates in urban areas and intrude on their personal liberty. The strength of that opposition became clear last fall when Justice Minister Kim Campbell was forced to abandon the Conservative government's attempt at tighter controls under pressure from powerful western Conservatives—including

Deputy Prime Minister Donald Macdonald. Gun laws are almost as old as Canada itself. Legislators first provided penalties for those who carried handguns without a reasonable need for self-defense in 1877. In 1924, Parliament required all handguns to be registered. And in 1977, federal legislators moved to control the acquisition of firearms, ban fully

automatic weapons outright and establish specific penalties for the use of firearms in criminal acts. Still, Flanagan, "The right to bear arms is an American idea. It was never part of our Constitution."

Revered, victims: The toughest legislation followed an accident on Dec. 6, 1990, when unemployed boxer Marc Lépine, visiting a legally purchased semiautomatic rifle, burst into the University of Montreal's sociology classroom and ransacked through its classrooms shooting students. Before killing himself, Lépine killed 14 women. The massacre galvanized the government into addressing several perceived weaknesses in existing legislation. Last June, Campbell tabled Bill C-60. Among other things, the proposed law would have banned large-capacity gun magazines like the one used by Lépine and required applicants for a gun license to provide personal refer-



Campbell: new legislation



Montreal massacre victim: increased calls in Canada for stricter gun laws

ences and to wait a maximum of 28 days while police screened their application before they could buy a firearm. Under current law, police must approve requests for gun permits within an applicant has a record of violent behavior within the preceding five years.

But in the face of opposition from members of her own caucus, Campbell withdrew the bill

last November, sending it to an all-party Commons committee for further study. In February, the committee approved most of Bill C-60, but recommended relaxed rules on magazine size and continued use provision that would have obliged purchasers to present a valid gun permit when buying ammunition. Opposition members accused the committee of seeking to

dilute the original bill. B.C. New Democrat MP Ian Waddell, for one, called the committee's report "a recipe for non-action."

At the other extreme, opponents of controls reject almost all limits on what kind of guns people can buy in Canada. David Tomlinson, president of the 30,000-member, Edmonton-based National Firearms Association, says any restrictions "on the guy who is a control of the firearm." Proactive gun owners, he argues, should be tested for safe weapon-handling practices before being permitted to own a gun. But gun-control lobbyist Ian Mac, national co-ordinator of the 1,500-member, Ottawa-based Campaign for a Safer Canada, calls Tomlinson's argument "a clever side step." He warns that police already check prospective gun buyers, issued a gun permit for the existing registry of handgun owners to be expanded to include all gun owners, "some of whom have hundreds of guns in their basements." Adds Flanagan: "In the not-too-distant future, I would like to see a whole generation of people who don't have guns at all."

Meanwhile, Campbell says that she will introduce her gun-control bill in the coming session of the House of Commons—probably in May. And this time, she says, "I think I am going to see my legislation enacted." But both enemies and allies sides of the debate remain high, that step appears unlikely to remove Campbell from the line of political fire.

GLEN ALLEN in Ottawa

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MICHAEL WILSON HAS A TOUGH NEW MANDATE—TO MAKE CANADA'S ECONOMY MORE COMPETITIVE

In the tumultuous summer of 1990, when Canadians were focused on the country's constitutional crisis and the violence surrounding native demands in Oka, Que., Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Deputy Prime Minister Michael Wilson were wrestling with a problem that they regarded as equally important to the future of the country. Since the Thirteen came to power in 1869, Wilson had persistently badgered Mulroney on one point: he contended that Canada was lagging behind its competitors in the race to secure international markets. Mulroney agreed to make economic competitiveness a government priority, but only when Wilson was free to lead the campaign. The 53-year-old former Bay Street financier did not recore the job until April 21, when Mulroney appointed him the minister responsible for industry, science and technology, as well as international trade. Last week in Montreal, in his first public appearance since the cabinet shuffle, Wilson began his new job with a dramatic warning: "The world is trading," he told a conference on North American free trade. "Competition is tough. We did not make it that way, and we cannot reach it any."

Wilson's appointment sends a clear signal that the Tories are intent on transforming the country's economic structure—from the place gone to strategies for overseas markets. Although many economists say that Canada has fallen dangerously behind other countries in such key areas as productivity and industrial efficiency, they disagree about the specific measures that are required to address those

shortcomings. As a result, the methods Wilson will employ in an effort to enhance the country's competitive position are unclear. In the months ahead, he will consider a wide array of domestic options that range from the dismantling of interprovincial trade barriers and agricultural marketing boards to the assertion of a stronger federal voice in the publicly guarded provincial realm of education. Says Jack Mawell, chairman of the Economic Council of Canada, "It is not a question of picking between or spending some money or changing a tax rate. It involves changing the way people think." Adds Wilson: "There is not any respect or ideology here. It is reality."

That task may prove as difficult as the Tories' other major preoccupation—boosting the country's constitutional divisions. Economists say that Canada has largely failed to make the leap from an economy based mainly on natural resource extraction, such as mining and forestry, to one fueled by the design, engineering, and production of sophisticated manufactured goods. Unless that transformation is made, they question whether the country, which generates 30 per cent of its wealth from exports, can maintain the high standards of living that Canadians have come to enjoy. "We don't just need skills, we need brain skills," says Janet Taylor, president of the Canadian Exporters Association.

For a large extent, Taylor blames the federal



Pulp mill near Saskatchewan: an economy based largely on natural resources

government for the country's competitive difficulties because Ottawa has raised interest rates in its battle against inflation. That policy has driven up the value of the dollar, making Canadian goods more expensive in foreign markets. Says Taylor, "In his new portfolio, Wilson is going to have to put inflation in its proper perspective."

Indeed, several studies of Canadian competitiveness suggest that Ottawa has few options other than to change its fiscal and monetary policies. The Economic Council of Canada, for one, recently suggested that Canada's competitive position would be enhanced by lower interest rates and tighter controls on the budget deficit. Says Maxwell: "We have created a lot of handicap for ourselves by our slow approach to the deficit problem. We should never put ourselves through this kind of torpor again." And as a sharp critical report, delivered in draft form to Mulroney in November, the National Advisory Board on Science and Technology charged Ottawa for failing to follow up the 1989 Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with programs to assist the manufacturing sector. The report said that the poor business climate had undermined the benefits of freetrade trade and increased the danger that Canada's economy would suffer what is called "de-industrialization." In addition, the 24-member, federally appointed advisory board complained that the ability of Canada's manufacturers to compete in the U.S. market was "at an all-time low" because wages in the country had to be higher, and productivity

levels lower, than in the United States.

International studies of competitiveness also suggest that Canada is falling behind its major trading partners. The World Competitiveness Report, issued by the Swiss-based World Economic Forum and the International Institute for Management Development, ranked Canada fifth among 23 industrial nations in 1990 in terms of its ability to compete against foreign companies in the sale of goods and services. In the previous year, Canada was in fourth place. Of particular concern to many Canadian analysts, however, was the country's position in the 30 categories that the report uses to compare personal competitiveness. In all but two of the criteria, the supply of natural resources and the overall financial climate, Canada ranked lower last year than it did in 1989. In the overall category of industrial efficiency, the country placed third in 1989, but fell to 13th place in 1990—in part, the firms said, because Canada's tax rates are higher than those of many of its competitors. Private corporate taxes average 30 per cent in Canada, compared with 34 per cent in the United States.

Critics and supporters of Wilson's policies often acknowledge that the campaign to improve competitiveness is likely to cost a high price. Union officials complain that the push to increase productivity by lowering trade barriers through the FTA—and a proposed follow-up free trade accord with Mexico—will inevitably result in lower wages and reduced benefits for

their workers. As well, Statistics Canada says that during the past two years, the country has lost 277,000 manufacturing jobs. Many of those jobs had been to the worldwide economic slowdown—and may return when the economy begins to recover. But others were a loss, too, later automated industries that analysts say will disappear permanently from heightened competition.

For their part, opposition critics say that a combination of cuts in government grants for research and an easing of regulations against foreign takeovers of Canadian companies are stripping the country of tools that it needs to plan its future. Declared James Peterson, the federal Liberal critic for industry: "We cannot expect to be a world leader in our chosen areas when decisions regarding research and development, pricing and environmental are being increasingly made outside Canada—and when the best jobs are at a foreign head office." Indeed, Canada lags far behind other Western countries—and its own previous standards—in spending on research and development. Although Canadian companies increased their spending on research and development in the 1980s, to 3.7 per cent of the gross domestic product in 1989 from 0.4 per cent in 1982, the World Economic Forum ranked Canada only 25th out of 23 industrial nations in terms of corporate spending on R&D.

Another area that will demand Wilson's attention is education. According to David

Business Notes

A PRIME BOOP

The Bank of Canada's bank rate posted its biggest weekly drop in four months, falling to 4.00 per cent from 5.00 per cent. The unexpectedly large decline followed a one-half-percentage-point drop in the prime rate set by the six major chartered banks to 10.25 per cent, its lowest level in three years. And it works out, the Bank of Montreal announced, a further decrease, to 13 per cent. Since the end of March, aggressive competition among the banks has lowered the benchmark prime rate a full percentage point.

TRAUSTEER FOR A THUMB

An Ontario court declared Standard Trustco Ltd. bankrupt after the Toronto-based firm did not oppose a bankruptcy petition filed by a group of 25 lenders owed about \$800 million. The April 23 declaration came just five days after federal regulators stated the 37 members of the insolvent Standard Trust Ltd., which was Canada's ninth-largest trust company, to avoid jeopardizing the security of \$1.5 billion in 148,000 accounts.

PAKING DOWN THE DEBT

Publisher Rupert Murdoch, who owns magazines and newspapers around the world—as well as some status 20th Century-Fox—is selling most of his U.S. magazines, including *Jet*, *Seventeen*, *Star*, *Glenn*, *Digital*, *Power* and *Yes*, first to the syndicator and publisher of *Seventeen*, *Seiberg*, *Kovner* and *Co.* for a reported \$912 million to help pay down his debt of \$2.3 billion.

NORANDA SELL-OUT

Noranda Inc. is looking to sell its wholly owned subsidiary, Canada Wire and Cable Ltd., the largest cable-products manufacturer in Canada, to Alcan's Cable Co. of France—the world's largest supplier of such products—for an undisclosed sum. Development Canada must approve the sale.

THE PRICE OF HIS TOYS

New York City developer Donald Trump, who owes more than \$3.7 billion in bank debts and bank loans, may finally have to get up front his assets to meet lenders to take for personal property. Trump told *The New York Times* that he was close to signing tentative agreements that would result in his giving up the Trump Shores Onshore casino, the Roney Shores Hotel in Atlantic City, N.J., his interests in New York's Grand Hotel, Hotel and his personal yacht, and other properties. In exchange, the banks would release him from some of the hundreds of millions of dollars in personally guaranteed loans.

THE COMPETITORS TOP INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, RANKED BY COMPETITIVENESS.

1. JAPAN
2. SWITZERLAND
3. UNITED STATES
4. GERMANY
5. CANADA
6. SWEDEN
7. FINLAND
8. DENMARK
9. NORWAY
10. THE NETHERLANDS

Source: World Economic Forum
International Management Development
Institute

income, a senior policy analyst for the Toronto-based C. D. Howe Institute, the high dropout rate among Canadian students is one of the most serious impediments to Canadian competitiveness. "Only 72 per cent of our young adults are still in school at age 17," Reeves said. "That is dramatically lower than the Japanese, lower even than is the United States—high value-added products depend on a skilled labor force."

At the same time, there is near-unanimous agreement that the country's deficit represents an obstacle to economic growth. Currently, the federal government's deficit averages \$1,720 per person in Canada. By contrast, in the United States, where President George Bush has been faulted for failing to control the deficit, the figure is \$1,475. Despite Wilson's efforts to control government spending, the national debt has grown from \$109 billion when the Tories took office in 1984 to \$290 billion now. Interest payments on the debt swallow about 21 per cent of federal government expenditures, compared with just 12 per cent two decades ago.

As a result, many economists say that Can-



Wilson: 'competition is tough'

ada will have to revise their traditional view of the role of government. Says Gordon Rebo, a senior Ottawa-based trade consultant who served as Canada's deputy chief negotiator in the Canada-U.S. free trade talks, "The truth is that Canadians can no longer afford an attitude of paternalistic reliance on government." One political leader echoing that view is Preston Manning, the head of the Alberta-based

proving them access to wider markets at a time when the global economy is becoming increasingly interconnected. Declared Wilson: "The stakes are nothing less than the future prosperity of Canada. It's too costly to coast." The question now is whether Canadians are prepared to pay the price of improved competitiveness.

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Distorted images: the CBC on Meech Lake

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

The first about-turn in the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.'s news coverage happened by John Gungor's appointment to the public network's board of directors, a about to resume with a retraction. A 30-page essay by John Meisel, a professor of political science at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., documents a powerful case that the CBC's Ottawa-based coverage was initially prejudicial against the Meech Lake constitutional process.

No ordinary anti-biasist academic, Meisel is the author of definitive books on the 1957 and 1962 general elections and was later appointed by the Clark government as chairman of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission in Ottawa. In his carefully documented study, titled "Meech? Searchlight! Intimidation? The Media and Meech," to be published this week in *After Meech Lake: Lessons for the Future*, Meisel accuses the CBC of presenting the accord as a negative light when the Meech Lake debate began in 1987. "I was agitated and shocked by what attack met in the appallingly arrogant and facile stance of one of the most senior CBC journalists," he writes. "I find it frightening that anyone could feel so sure of himself as in the role of a government's and people's enemies, that he would feel confident enough to provide the medium for which he is responsible into the political process with the aim of obstructing the perceived consensus and appropriateness of the government.... My anxiety is all the more acute when the interview is by the public broadcaster."

The broadcaster cited by Meisel is Rita Alban, the network's political editor and Ottawa bureau chief, who supervised the CBC's own Meech coverage. Meisel's case against Alban is as telling because instead of leaving his charges as just complicated—and necessarily subjective—analysis of news reports broadcast under his direction, the Queen's political scientist singles out just one of Alban's descriptions of the criteria he used to appraise the Meech coverage.

'I was agast by what struck me as the appallingly arrogant and facile stance of one of the most senior CBC journalists'

Speaking to a Calgary academic conference on Meech Lake in November, 1987 seven months after the accord was reached, Alban dubbed the proposed agreement as "a highly political and cynical exercise that had very little to do with the rationalization of Canada." He went on to say "Brian Mulroney needed, for his own purposes, to establish that he could do in Quebec what Pierre Trudeau could not. That was, in my mind, the sole motivation for the political initiative. I think we were engaged in a highly political and partisan exercise by the Prime Minister." Alban then attacked the provincial premiers, claiming that they went along "desperately to ensure as much as they could in exchange for their acquiescence," and concluded: "This was a nation-building exercise."

Noting that the Mulroney government's popularity was then at a free fall, Alban pointed out that some Canadian media people felt they were in a situation similar to the U.S. media in the early days of Watergate. "We were focused on the extraordinary story of what appeared to be the collapse of the government, not the largest mandate in Canadian history," he explained. "When confronted with that sort of reality, plus a clear understanding of

the fragility of the deal and the risk to test and passage, we began a search for disaster.... you look for someone who will question the deal. We went to Clinton, we went to Rousseau, we looked for constitutional experts. I looked around the country, searching for people who were going to say in the first week or two, hey, there's something wrong here.... The Trudeau search started. Every day we sent a reporter down to Trudeau's office. He'd be in it today!"

Meisel acknowledges that last year, in the final stages of the Meech debate, the CBC went to extraordinary lengths to provide "competent and balanced accounts" of the constitutional debate, though he quotes one of the CBC's own writers which showed that between January and June, 1990, Clyde Wells, the Meech accord's chief opponent, appeared on the CBC's flagship news and public affairs programs, *The National* and *The Journal*, a total of 68 times, compared with 45 times for the second most-viewed political leader, Robert Bourassa, representing the other side of the controversy.

"To have assumed that the government was driven solely by one motive and one aim," Meisel writes, "to have been implicitly convinced that the motives of Brian Mulroney were purely party, purely cynical with Pierre Trudeau sitting in the box of subalterns (as every reader), to have convinced himself and then to have devised a strategy (reporting the coping events accordingly, revealed, to my mind, as only extremely questionable judgment, but also constituted a quite reasonable attempt by a key media player to engage the political process. Convinced that the party opposition to what he saw as a cynical and dangerous government initiative was inadequate, Alban proceeded to do what he could to provoke an alternative."

Meisel's accusations are serious because in 1987 Mulroney and the Tories were joined by then-Liberal leader John Turner, then-NDP leader Ed Broadbent and most of their elected members, plus all 10 premiers, in supporting Meech, so that it was far from a partisan exercise. Certainly, Alban's presentation of the case made a powerful difference in the outcome of the debate, since those Canadians who tuned in to the CBC's Meech coverage presumed they were watching balanced programming. Meisel quotes one Peter Gervais's *Afternoon* episode in 1987, when, in my mind, the subtle subtext for the political initiative, but confirmed the media network's Feb. 5, 1990, *Cross Country* checkup, which dealt with the same, as a program that "deeply misinterpreted these tensions, thereby influencing the context in which the Meech Lake accord was evaluated by viewers."

Meisel is quite explicit in his personal support for Meech Lake and believes that "the television media" helped undermine the accord, a result that "robbed us of the opportunity of Quebec and the rest of Canada thriving within one federal union." His essay ends with an eloquent plea that media should of course remain free, which are bound to be much more open than the Meech Basin, the media not abuse their power to influence the process. It's a thought worth pondering.

PEOPLE

Woman with the hits

Music Whitney Houston storms are musical. Her latest album, *I'm Your Baby Tonight*, has sold 3.5 million copies. With nine No. 1 singles, she is tied with Madonna as the female artist with the most No. 1 singles. And Houston will make her screen debut with Oscar-winning director Kevin Costner in the not-yet-made film



Houston: 'victim of attack'

Bodyguard. But last week, just before launching her 1987 tour, Houston, 37, was charged with assault in Lexington, Ky. *Business Week*, of Lexington, and that Houston punched her when he tried to break up a fight between her brother Michael and another man in a hotel bar. For her part, Houston said that she and her brother were victims of a racially motivated, "premeditated attack." Her account differs from the

Behind every good preservationist...

Screen legend and wildlife advocate James Stewart, 82, says that his wife Gloria's passion for animals has influenced him profoundly. Stewart visited Toronto only in April to open a conference in aid of Kropf's elephants,

whose population is dwindling. Declared the two-time Oscar winner "I have always said that the elephant is our disaster. It's more than a big animal—it's a creature that has a place in the world that's special, that should be taken care of." Added Stewart, whose wife of 41 years is also

STEWART: ANNEAL KROFF

Singing for unity

Pop star Roch Voisine sings in both of Canada's official languages, but he says that he is not in the business of promoting national unity. The St-Basile, N.B., native has sold more than 1.5 million copies of his bilingual album, *Ahous*, in Quebec and France, and is presently released an English album, *Rock Returns*. The album sold the 25-year-old singer "I guess I am an image of bilingualism. If I can do something for unity by being who I am, that's great. But I don't want to lay my career on it."

Voisine: 'I guess I am an image'

LIKE PARENTS, LIKE SONS

Donald Petrie Jr. says that show-business genes made his directing debut easy. The actor in his two-action films, *Top Gun*, *Indiana Jones*, *300* (Petrie's father's), and Jackie Coogan's grandson Keith Coogan, 18, And Petrie, 39, whose screenplay credits include *Beaverly Hills Cop*, is also the son of a film veteran—Gloria Swanson. M.S.-born director Donald Petrie, Sr. "Most of these kids grew up in showbiz. There were critics and practiced jokes on the set but, when the cameras were rolling, they were absolute professionals."

A homecoming

Although the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's South American tour has had some pitfalls—one member not injured in Mexico and others developed stomach diseases on children's visits. Petrie, principal dancer, *Exotic* *Bliss* says that she feels like she has come home. Her, who for half the year dances for the State Ballet in Munich, joined the company in Buenos Aires and would be doing *The Tango*, *Devil's Hair*, 35, of her reunion with her Royal Winnipeg Ballet partner. "It's like when you see an old friend and you pick up where you left off. It's not like you've been away of all."



Her: picking up with old friends

action as wildlife preservation. "The first time I took Gloria home, I asked for the keys to unlock the door and her enormous German shepherd jumped right for my throat. She just said, 'Shh, it's OK, don't be afraid. I know right then that there was something special about her respect for wildlife. She certainly loved me.'"



ROCKET'S RED GLARE

The high-rise masts in the back of the black steel building, which, as Raghib (Rocket) Ismail unabashedly demonstrates, is big enough to dance in. But as the high-rise masts tower above the city of Chicago, the Ismails' newly acquired estate and a collection of the 25-year-old athlete, already known as one of the best football players in his time. Boasting from one side of the car to the other, Ismail excitedly points out the stars and landmarks as they flash by the homes of Chicago's wealthy on Lake Shore Drive, the Sears Tower and the city's old, and partly demolished, Gateway Arch. But he stops back in his seat when the downtown skyline falls behind and the lacrosse rink past the green wall of home blocks on Chicago's east and west sides. "There's too much talent and creativity trapped in there," Ismail says softly. "But it's so tough to break out. First, you have to leave here to arrive in that environment, and then you have to learn to survive as a whole new environment outside."

Ismail, who spent his own childhood in Newark, N.J., clearly knows both worlds. He came from the inner city as a football player, which he did his own special talent: a potent blend of explosive speed, soccer instincts and fierce

RAGHIB ISMAIL IS ALREADY ONE OF THE RICHEST PLAYERS IN FOOTBALL HISTORY

competitiveness. Earlier last week in Toronto, Ismail demonstrated that he has mastered the outside environment as well. With his long arms and brilliant manner, the 6-foot, 16-inch Ismail charmed scores of punters at a news conference called to celebrate his spectacular \$30-million signing with the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League. The lucrative contract immediately placed Ismail at the pinnacle of his sport, making him—even before appearing in his first professional game—the second-highest-paid player in football, behind veteran quarterback Jim Kelly of

the National Football League's Buffalo Bills.

The deal is also a coup for the financially troubled CFL. The Canadian league has a long history of importing stars from south of the border, beginning with the Edmonton Eskimos' signing of University of Oklahoma standout Billy Vessels in 1950. But it is in Ismail that the CFL has truly entered a player of Ismail's stature away from the more powerful NFL. During his three college years at the football-scholar University of Notre Dame at South Bend, Ind., Ismail's electrifying kick returns and running ability made him one of the most celebrated athletes in the United States. His decision to play in the CFL, despite a heavily needed dose of equipment as a league whose fanshops are struggling to attract the crowds and television revenues needed to survive (page 43)

Flasky: The architect of the deal that brought Ismail to Toronto was Los Angeles businessman Bruce McNall (page 56). It was the second time in the past three years that the Ismail McNall has shocked the sports world. In 1988, the coin collector and veteran sports entrepreneur, who also owns the Los Angeles Kings of the National Hockey League, spent a staggering \$18 million to acquire hockey star Wayne Gretzky from the Edmonton Oilers. Along with Gretzky and co-owner John Candy—each of whom now



Ismail in Toronto: Argonauts owner McNall "treated me the way I like to treat people."

owns a 20-per-cent share of the franchise—McNall finished his \$5.7-billion purchase of the Argonauts last week Nov. 19, by incidentally signing Ismail. McNall has two asked the names of NFL owners who had been expected to make Ismail the first selection in the league's annual draft of new players. "Raghib has that star quality," McNall told reporters in a hotel ballroom adjacent to the Toronto SkyDome, where Ismail will play. "He has an opportunity to transcend his sport, like Wayne does with hockey."

In fact, Ismail's flashy play and engaging off-field personality provide an infusion of excitement and the promise of revival to the CFL. Ismail does not merely score touchdowns—he accomplishes them in dazzling style. He scored on a sport usually dominated by such bays, stronger than the 174-lb Ismail embodies the spirit of the underdog. And his reputation for modesty is a bonus of his fans, a belief that the seemingly endless parade of airport and prebent professional athletes seeking ever greater riches.

Not that Ismail will be underpaid. His deal with McNall—a personal services contract negotiated by a battery of San Francisco-based lawyers, accountants and marketing executives who call themselves "Team Rocket"—guarantees Ismail \$16.5 million just for playing football. As well, he will earn another \$4.6 million—and possibly as much as an additional \$9.4 million—from a host of business ventures. The contract, and Ismail's former general manager Hugh Campbell, clearly represents a marketing dream by McNall since it is negotiating both the Argonauts and the league. Added Campbell: "No player is worth \$4 million—not in this league or any other."

Legend: But Ismail is not just a money player. He is a young man coming into his own as a business. The personable McNall, on the other hand, Ismail attracted an Ismail and, according to the player, "treated me the way I like to treat people." In the United States, many football fans and sports writers were dismayed that Ismail chose to begin his professional career in Canada instead of treating Ismail in the NFL. But Bill Miller, a sports columnist with the South Bend Tribune who defected Ismail's decision: "Kids just love the Rocket, and people down here are sad that they won't be able to see him on TV anymore."

But fans of those who know Ismail well were surprised by his decision. Two weeks before the signing, he flew to Toronto at McNall's expense and met several current members of the Argonauts. Said John Miller, who grew up in Toronto and now is the assistant coach coach at Notre Dame: "He came back very impressed from his trip to Toronto. And he seemed to have little enthusiasm for dealing with the NFL." Speaking to reporters in Los Angeles early last week, Ismail said that he was attracted to Toronto partly because he believed that it had a more tolerant racial climate. "The people up there don't seem to be as closed-minded as their athletes," he said.

THE \$30-MILLION MAN

\$15.6 million

Four-year personal services contract with Argonaut owner Bruce McNall

\$4.6 million

Guaranteed five-year income from related accounts, including a share of promotional and endorsement events, a share of any increase in Argonaut ticket revenues, and additional joint business returns with McNall

\$9.4 million

Estimated five-year additional potential earnings from related ventures. In addition, Ismail will receive a portion of any increase in the team's market value.

\$460,000

CFL salary from the Toronto Argonauts at least \$125,000 per year for four years.



Pressing to his cheek, he added "They seem to accept you for what you are rather than for the color of your skin."

Friends also speculated that Israel was fleeing the incessant hounding he endures from fans and journalists wherever he turns in the United States (even at Notre Dame, which has produced a plethora of famous athletes, Israel's athletic prowess is well known). As well as playing football, he is a champion sprinter—his time of 18.34 seconds in the 100-m dash (the world record is 9.8) is the fastest ever recorded at Notre Dame. But Israel has been besieged so often by autograph-seekers that he now declines requests for autographs from the rest of the team's fans. He once explained to Miller that one reason he exits only a single meal today is that he is constantly bothered for autographs while he goes to the university dining hall.

Said Moor: "He grew tony with the media here in his last year. He likes his privacy. Going to Toronto is his way of saying, 'I'll do it my way.'"

Miller During a two-hour drive from Chicago's O'Hare Airport to South Bend last week, Israel told Marlowe's that he was completely at peace with his decision to come to the CFL. He eagerly told a day-old Chicago Tribune story on the two draft, snorting derisively at comments from NFL executives that he was not an "impact player" capable of improving a team's fortunes as his own Israel acknowledged that the two-week period leading up to his signing had been difficult, letting his blue baseball cap and pointing to a tear of sweat on his forehead. He said: "When I get stressed, my face looks sad."

With the contract negotiations and media blitz behind him, Israel's spirits were buoyant. Crowing the virtues of the CFL's powerful video technology, he announced the deal as a watershed event between black music and said that he would have loved to have been a professional dancer. "I learned to dance by watching videos in a bar," shouted Israel, adding that he took better lessons at Notre Dame last summer, which helped to improve his coordination and muscular fluidity. "Dancing just fills me with joy."

Among his other passions are soul and rap music. Posters of pop singer Janet Jackson adorn the walls of his cramped dormitory room at Notre Dame's Grace Hall. And on his answering machine, Israel has left a recorded announcement in the form of an original 38-second rap song.

Israel spent his early childhood in a tough inner-city neighborhood of Newark, where his

family—he has two brothers—was once ruled by three men-of-door neighbors. Both his parents had separately consented to having a young adult, being Israel's mother, Israel's American-born father, Rachel, was an Italian scholar who learned to speak Arabic fluently and gave lectures on religious law. But as an effort to escape the chaos he encountered while growing up in New Jersey, Rachel concocted an elaborate—but false—personal history, claiming to have been born in Khartoum, the capital city of the Sudan. He did not disclose the truth to his own family—his wife, Patricia, and son Ralph (pronounced rampel) Odey,

and her son to live with these paternal grandmothers in Wilkes-Barre in 1952. At the time, Ralph recalled, he hated to leave his Newark neighborhood. "Drops were still around, but it was a normal part of life, so nobody thought much about it," he said. And in Wilkes-Barre, a predominantly white, middle-class city of 50,000, the Italian name and background was no shield against racism. "I remember a girl down the street telling us that her parents did not want her to play with us," he said. "The parents said we weren't going to attend to anything and were just trouble."

But at Meyers High School in Wilkes-Barre,



The Rocket running the ball for Notre Dame against Purdue: an infusion of adrenaline

36, who attends Syracuse University in New York state, and Solomon, 18, now in his first year of high school in Wilkes-Barre. This—and shortly before his death from kidney failure in 1952, when Ralph was 10. Recalled Ralph: "When my father passed away, the key part of my life was gone."

After Rachel's death, Patricia could no longer afford to send her sons to a local Catholic school. The shift to the public school system was a jarring change for Ralph, whose scholastic achievement had been encouraged by his father and who now faced classroom peers who showed his ability to read aloud. "We lived as an alien in Newark where they would cut your throat for a dime," recalled Fatah, who remembered taking heavy drug dealers with home-baked cookies to convince them to avoid doing business when the three boys were around.

On the advice of teachers and friends, Patricia

Ralph soon attended his high-school track and football coaches with his lightning speed. High-school track coach Jon O'Hara recalled that the first time he saw Israel from the 100-yard dash, he bellowed to an assistant coach and said: "He shot out of there like a rocket! Well, the kids heard that and took them on, he was 'the Rocket.' Anyway, who the hell wants to call him 'the Rocket'?" The kids could not even pronounce it.

Meanwhile Israel performed with equal talent on the football field. As a Grade 9 student, he scored 30 touchdowns for the freshman team—even though he weighed only 125 lb. Three years later, at 44 lb, he scored 36 touchdowns in 16 games for the school's senior team. "We were worried about giving him the ball time because of his size," said Wayne Dwyer, an assistant high-school coach who remains a close Daily News and, who drove seven hours to Toronto to attend his

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THE WELL-INFORMED CHOICE.

week's news conference. "But his eyes are incredible. He sees everybody coming."

Dwyer is one of a number of adults who escorted Jamal during his adolescent years and tried to protect him from harmful influences. Many of them said that they were attracted by Jamal's outgoing personality, not simply his athletic abilities. "He let everybody see anything," said Mervyn Gribben, Jamal's high-school football coach. "But he never was an 'I person. Any accolades he got athletically, he would pass the glory on to his teammates. Of course some of the parents might have been jealous. But the kids themselves really appreciated the fact that he acknowledged them for their contributions. And I thought that was a real unusual trait."

Mythique: Track coach Cross, meanwhile, remembered Jamal dedicating a mentally retarded teenager who was being picked on by another student. Jamal Cross, "Rocket" said, "You lay on head on that kid and you're going to answer to me." He protected the underdog. He had so much compassion."

By all accounts, Jamal retained that tranquility even after enrolling at Notre Dame, a school where football players are treated with reverence. Even in high school, Jamal was admired in the Notre Dame mystique. Before every game, he would go to Dwyer's house to watch *Heidi* (the *Elmore*, a documentary on Notre Dame's football tradition. "I thought professional football was too boring, so I started watching college ball on TV," said Jamal. But he made the decision to accept Notre Dame's scholarship offer in part, he said, "because when I saw their running back, I thought to myself: 'Now there's a line I could make.'"

Even now, Jamal depicts few of the top-guns of a U.S. college football star. Although some of his teammates drive expensive European-made automobiles, Jamal himself does not even own a car. "There's had wheels since my 15-speed bike was stolen in first year," he said. And Jamal does not possess a credit card.

Heptak: Well, Jamal said that financial security for his family was the main reason he decided to quit Notre Dame a year before graduation. Last fall, he publicly pledged to finish his degree in Aerospace studies and communications before beginning professional football. But Jamal, a C average student, was badly shaken by the unexpected death from natural causes of football teammate Chris Bonch's mother, Zora, last January. The popular Bonch, an all-American defensive star, disappeared, his mother's body upon returning home following Notre Dame's 19-9 Orange Bowl loss to the University of Colorado on New Year's Day. "Chris had played his last game and was badly going to be able to take care of his mom," said Jamal last week. "Her death made me think that you've got to deal with the reality of today, to take advantage of opportunities when they're here."



Quincy (left), Farris, Rightly growing up "where they cut your throat for a dime"

Before signing with the Aggrados, Jamal telephoned his mother at Walter Burke, where she works as a legal secretary, and asked her for advice. Recalled Farris Jamal last week: "I said, 'Honey, get on the freedom train and let's go.' Although she said that she wanted to get her job, she insisted that her son's newfound wealth will not alter the Rightly family's approach to life. "It may change our address, it may change the way we go to the grocery store," said the outgoing Farris, who carries a prayer rag with her when she travels and prays several times a day. "But it is not going to change the basics." Although they speak on the phone virtually every day, Jamal appears not to share his mother's love of religion. "You could say I am noncommittal," he said.

After the launch of his *Toronto* visit, it was a clearly relaxed Rocket who returned to South Bend for his final days as a third-year student. Ahead, he said, lay "too many papers" still to write and worries that his failure to finish the past two weeks meant that he "was going to get smushed" in a weekend 100-m race in Philadelphia. But even the journey home was interrupted several times by well-wishers. Wearing a silver-and-black Los Angeles Rams sweater and lugging a bag stuffed with delicatessen foods left in his Toronto hotel for him by John Candy, he was stopped several times while way through O'Hare airport by people eager to congratulate him on his contract. "Son-of-a-bitch," and a weary but smiling Jamal as he struggled with the food basket in order to shake hands with an enthusiastic fan as an airport elevator. "people think that they recognize me. But then they say, 'Mah, that guy's too small to be Rocket.'"

A day later, a sheepish Jamal showed up on his hour late for his afternoon track practice. "I'm sorry I was late," he said, "but I was being late." And a final crash Miller. "And then he will finish that bag and sit on you and you just cannot get mad at him." Indeed, Jamal, at heart, is still very much a young man—a new high school athlete who simply loves the sensation of running. "I have got to always been fast," said Jamal. "I imagine once I get older and slow down, I will appreciate it more." But at just 21 years, that speed has carried Rocket Jamal from the poverty of Newark to an unenvied status as one of the world's highest-paid athletes.

BRUCE WILLACE on South Bend and JERRY KELLAN on Walter Burke

The Multimillionaires Of Team Sports		
(Estimated Average Annual Income in Millions)		
1. Roger Clemens	Boston Red Sox	\$6.2
2. Dwight Gooden	New York Mets	\$5.9
3. John and Bret Williams	Cleveland Cavaliers	\$5.6
4. Jeff Barry	Seattle Mariners	\$5.4
5. Jose Canseco	Baltimore Orioles	\$5.4
6. Patrick Debing	New York Knicks	\$5.3
7. Rightly (Rocket) Jamal	Toronto Aggrados	\$5.3
8. Andy Van Slyke	Pittsburgh Pirates	\$4.8
9. Tony Gwynn	San Diego Padres	\$4.7
10. Rickey Henderson	Seattle Mariners	\$4.7
11. Wayne Gretzky	Los Angeles Kings	\$3.8

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A SPORTING PRICE TAG

ANATOMY OF A \$30-MILLION DEAL

The building, bespectacled accountant was early to overlook and the bright lights, helmets and jostling reporters. But few of the spectators at the news conference, held last week to announce *RoughRide* (RoughRide) Iain's decision to play for the Toronto Argonauts, have more at stake than Canadian Football League commissioner Donald Crump. Since he executed his position at January, 1990, the soft-spoken Crump, 55, has been wading to avert the biggest fustian of the eight-team league, particularly in southern Ontario. Crump, previously the treasurer of Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens Ltd., became entangled when Argonauts' budgeted him with questions about the league's 16-month attempt to negotiate a new television contract. But he has been quickly methodized to a smile when he spotted new Argos owner Bruce McNall departing the room. Crump reached out and warmly shook the businessman's hand. "We'll see you again soon," Crump said, beaming. "And thanks, Mr. McNall."

At a potential \$30 million, \$99.7 million of which is guaranteed, the personal-services contract that binds McNall and Iain is one of the most expensive in the history of professional sports. It obliges McNall—and, indirectly, his two 20-per-cent minority partners in the Argonauts, Wayne Gretzky, the hockey legend who plays for McNall's Los Angeles Kings, and actor John Candy—to pay the 35-year-old wide receiver and lock accounts \$16.1 million in salary and bonuses over the next four years. As well, McNall has guaranteed that Iain will earn at least \$4.6 million, and possibly millions more, from endorsements, unspecified joint business ventures, future gains at Argonaut ticket revenues and any increase in the market value of the team.

Credibility. In Edmonton last week, before his playoff games, Gretzky told reporters that he had McNall's decision to leave Iain to Canada. According to the 1988 *Playoffs* Foundation, the former Gretzky earns about \$3.5 million a year from McNall's Los Angeles

Gretzky: a contract that paid off handsomely

Kings, about \$6.7 million less than Iain's guaranteed annual income of \$3.2 million. But says Gretzky: "Bruce just feels that the league needed credibility. People told him that they weren't going to get a good television deal without Iain."

Impact. McNall and his advisers acknowledge that they are uncertain exactly how they will generate the millions needed to pay Iain. But they know from firsthand experience that star athletes can have a huge impact on team revenues. In 1988, McNall traded two players and three first-round draft choices—and paid \$1.8 million—to the Minnesota Vikings to obtain Gretzky and two other players for the Los Angeles Kings. According to Bruce

Waks, non-chairman of McNall Sports & Entertainment, McNall's advisers studied 15 possible financial scenarios before committing the deal to Waks. "The numbers don't work. But we did a survey."

In fact, McNall's contract with Gretzky appears to have paid off handsomely. Waks credits the Kings with a fourfold increase in the 1989 *Sport Illustrated* cover story in 1987-1988 to record in 1989-1990. As well, the team's revenues increased by about \$25 million during Gretzky's first season, and the team earned a small profit after posting a \$6-million loss the season before. During the negotiations with Iain, McNall said last week, Waks "brought out on me. But it's the end of the day, I still went with my gut."

The challenge confronting McNall this time appears even more formidable than with the Gretzky deal. On top of the \$5.2 million he promised to pay Iain each season, McNall said his partners will also have to meet the Argonauts' regular team payroll of \$3 million. If the Argonauts fill all 53,595 seats in the SkyDome for each of the 16 home games and use regular season games this year, total ticket-revenue would reach about \$23 million. But under the league's pay-per-play plan, the Argonauts will have to share part of any additional seat sales generated by Iain with other CFL teams. As the end of each CFL season, teams with higher-than-average gate receipts pay a portion of those receipts as a pool that is used to compensate teams with lower-than-average revenues. The Argonauts will retain the lion's share of any increase, however, since no team is required to give anyone that 10 per cent of its home revenues.

Still, McNall says he will have to suggest the Argonauts' gate receipts with increased television and sponsorship revenue. He plans to help the league obtain a contract with one or



Argonauts game in Toronto's SkyDome; Crump (below): hopes of rekindling fan interest across Canada

more U.S. cable networks, and has raised publicly about trying to help the CFL expand into one or more U.S. cities in order for the league to build following in that country. Says Waks: "There are a lot of intangibles, and it's not how to come together financially to make it work."

Precedent. In recent years, the Argonauts have performed well on the field but failed to attract many new supporters. In the 1990 season, the team scored an average of 28.2 points a game—a CFL record—and finished a second-place in the league's eastern division before losing to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in the eastern conference final. But critics say that the team's previous owner, entrepreneur Harry Omyard, whose Beverly Hills, Calif., home is near McNall's, failed to promote the team.

Declared Iain Campbell, the Edmonton Eskimos' general manager: "The problem in Toronto was that they had a great product and nobody knew it."

The support for other CFL teams also declined through much of the 1980s, but picked up slightly in the past two seasons. At times, sportswriters and even some CFL executives have second-guessed that the league was in danger of dying. The most serious blow came before the 1987 season, when the Montreal Alouettes defaulted after drawing an average of only 11,212 fans per game in 1986 at the \$1,000-seat Olympic Stadium. The B.C. Lions, Calgary Stampeders and Ottawa Rough Riders also came close to folding in the 1980s.

Another big problem for the league has been reduced television revenues. In 1986, the last year of the league's three-year, \$30-million contract with Carling O'Keefe, each team received \$1.22 million in its share of the CFL's Canadian television rights. The league produced and sold its own package of games in 1987 and 1988, before signing a two-year deal with Molson Breweries that paid each team only \$650,000 for each season.

Last week, executives throughout the league hailed Iain's signing and predicted that the Notre Dame star will revitalize fan interest in Toronto and across Canada. Said the Eskimos' Campbell: "McNall had to make a bold move to get the attention of the people of Toronto, and that's exactly what he did." Ottawa Rough Riders general manager Joe-Joe Pihlak also praised McNall's strategy: "Toronto is obsessed with becoming a world-class city and using sport in 'The New York Times' and the other U.S. media," he said. "McNall has taken advantage of that obsession and brought them a world-class athlete."

Relevance. The publicity surrounding the signing produced immediate dividends for the Argonauts. The team sold 13,900 season-ticket packages in the three days following Iain's Toronto news conference. Said the team's talent manager, Janet Stewart: "The phone was absolutely crazy and we had to bring in more lines and more people." In total, she said, the team has already sold 12,950 season's tickets, up from 17,000 last season. Still, CFL commissioner Crump will have to work fast to ensure a better TV deal this season. To maximize his bargaining power, he postponed making a commitment with the CBC, CTV and TSN, the cable sports channel, and waited



until McCall completed the purchase of the Argos last week. But with the CFL regular season opening on July 11, with a game between the Argonauts and the Rough Riders in Ottawa, there is little time for the networks and potential advertisers to adjust their schedules.

Enthusiasm: Moreover, the network officials who will negotiate with Crump say that they have no current plans to increase their bids as a result of himself's signing. "McCall and Ismail have created a sense of excitement," said Alan Clark, head of sports for CBC-TV, "but there will be no immediate increase in dollars coming to us here." For his part, Crump's vice-president of sports and business development, Peter Simon, said that he doubts himself will have an immediate impact on advertising revenues. Added Simon: "Advertisers are people who say, 'Look, that sounds really good. But show me the numbers.' Right now, we've got a league that hasn't exactly set the world on fire."

The Argonauts' new money worries, Grestley and Candy, are preparing to use their considerable popularity to promote the team. Candy, the retired comic actor who is currently on location in Europe shooting a new movie, *Only the Lonely*, has reportedly filmed several Argonauts television commercials, including one in Ron's Coliseum. As well, Argonaut general manager Mike McCarthy says that Grestley will get more involved when his season is over. "He added that Grestley's wife, actress Janet Jones, will oversee the May 4 tryouts for the team's cheerleaders, the Sandwavers. McCall's plan also extends beyond the Canada-US border. Already, he has discussed selling CFL broadcast rights to Prime Ticket, a Las



Janet Jones: cheerleading as part of a marketing drive

Angles-based sports cable network with 4.2 million California subscribers. Representatives of several other U.S. sports cable networks have also expressed qualified interest in purchasing the rights to CFL games. The largest, Bravo, Coax, based time, the national cable sports network that has 56 million subscribers, produced four ratings for CFL games in 1996 de-

last year if two shows them. Still, some skepticism. Crump said last week that the network is prepared to "listen to offers" from the CFL. The Long Island, N.Y.-based SportsChannel America, a string of regional sports cable networks that reaches 16 million subscribers, showed 28 CFL games last year and was negotiating with the CFL before McCall signed Ismail. SportsChannel's executive Dan Martenson said that Ismail will likely draw less from the United States. "Ismail is one of the best players ever to come out of the college system," Martenson added. "And playing at State Stadium, he got constant national exposure."

Sensational: Martenson's view is shared by Joe Thompson, a former Notre Dame quarterback who played for the Argonauts from 1973 to 1993, before joining to the NFL's Washington Redskins. Thompson, now an Irish color commentator, predicted that Ismail will bolster the Argonauts' performance on the field and financially. "I think the Rocket is going to be sensational," Thompson

said. "He is going to do things that the league has never seen before." And McCall, Crump and other CFL team owners appear confident that they can ride the Rocket to new financial heights.

JERRY DALLI AND JAMES DEACON
with JERRY LANCOTER

Nordiques hold the right to choose. Lefebvre first in the league's June 22 draft of players. But his head, Lefebvre, has the system he could play in Europe, as well as the North American Hockey League or Global Hockey League (both plans to begin operations next fall), or with the Canadian Olympic team preparing for the 1998 Winter Games in France.

For now, the Nordiques and other Lefebvre teams will have to be patient. His advisers say that they will not sell him to consider his future until the end of the hockey season. Still, it is likely only a matter of months before Lefebvre becomes the next millionaire of sports.

JAMES DEACON

A MILLIONAIRE IN WAITING

For most of this spring, Eric Lindros has been too busy to do anything but make lists: a collection. But Richard Carron, the Toronto-based agent for the 18-year-old junior hockey superstar, says that he hopes his client's multimillion-dollar deal for rights (Richard himself is in possession of what is worth \$1 million) will be the last part of Lindros' life. The Lindros, who most hockey experts consider to be the best junior prospect since Mario Lemieux turned professional in 1984, is immersed in hockey and school. The Charlton, Ont., native is taking first-year business courses at York University in Toronto, where he already he was studying for summer. As well, the star-lit, five-foot, 200-lb center has led the Ontario Greenhorns to last week's Ontario Hockey League (OHL) championship series against

the Swift Stix. Marie Greyhounds. But as Carron lists and Lindros adds offers from teams in the National Hockey League, Europe and two new North American leagues, he says Lindros is "in a bind." "He is focused on hockey right now," Carron said. "The money will come later."

By most estimates, it will take a lot of money to sign Lindros, who is 57 regular-season games led all OHL scorers with 71 goals and 78 assists. Gordon Keith, a Toronto lawyer who advises Lindros' associates that compensation for his client's services has pushed his market value well beyond \$1 million per season, which would make him one of the NHL's Top 10 players. As a result of finding out in the 11-11 season, this season, the Quebec



Lindros, focused

QUANIES AND ATHLETES

BRUCE McCALL HAS ALWAYS TAKEN BIG RISKS

Bruce McCall likes to live on the edge. The affable Los Angeles businessman has gambled and won on such high-risk investments as ancient ruins, Hollywood movies, new horses and, most recently, struggling sports franchises. In 1988, McCall assumed hockey league's struggling Edmonton Oilers ownership. Within Grestley is an eight-year, \$10-million contract with the Los Angeles Kings after paying \$25 million for the

stable of 200 race horses, including Golden Pharaoh, which won the 1990 Arlington Million championship.

By 1990, McCall was studying ancient history at the University of California at Los Angeles with the intention of becoming a university professor. But he says that he dropped his postgraduate studies at UCLA after he realized that he could make more money and have more fun trading coins. Soon after that, he pulled off

sports brings you down to earth." His wife adds that there is one strong connection between the two interests: "In several instances," she says, "the period I've been in is the Roman Empire, and one of its most important features is the great amphitheaters of the popular for sports. They loved their racing and gladiator fights."

Although McCall paid his net worth at more than \$100 million, he counts that he has more



Janet Jones: 'Always key something that everyone else will want'

one of his most dramatic coin deals at a Zurich auction in 1974, when he was a budding new for a rare Greek coin called the Athena's head. He bought it for \$250,000, then a world-record price for a coin.

History: It was while he was a student at UCLA that he met his wife, Janet Galy, now a chess champion at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She shares McCall's interest in classical history and coins. "We met," she said. "Maxwell's last week," because we were the only people using these other chess books in the library. They married in 1963 and have two children, an eight-year-old girl and a six-year-old boy.

McCall acknowledges that recent coins and professional sports teams are an unlikely combination. "It surprises me at times," he says. "I have a lot of friends in the reference world who think that the Kings are serious riders. But

his self-worth in monetary terms. "Money for money's sake doesn't interest me," he says. "I'm doing things that I enjoy, and I don't worry a whole lot about whether I'll lose everything. If I worried about it, I'd never take the risk." But Susan Wake, vice-chairman and chief financial officer of McCall Sports & Entertainment, and a longtime adviser, says that her boss's decisions are usually based on a careful consideration of the potential risks and benefits. But she says that McCall also relies on his gut feelings and sometimes will do deals even when the numbers look questionable. Says Wake: "He is one of the most brilliant people I ever met. He really has incredible risk."

For his part, McCall says that his investment strategy is simple: "Always buy something that everyone else will want," he said in an interview. "Don't go bottom fishing for things that look cheap if they're cheap, that's probably a mistake—no one else wants them."

On the surface, McCall seems to have broken his own rule by buying into the troubled Canadian Football League. But he says that the Argos, who lost money last year, could be the league's most lucrative franchise because of the club's location in Canada's largest city. Still, he acknowledges that he is taking a risk with both the Argonauts and the Ismail deal. But he says that it is just the kind of chance he and his wife like to take. Added Galy: "He doesn't really like gambling in Las Vegas, you know. I think it's because the stakes are too small."

BRISNDA DALGLISH



An offer simply too good to refuse

BY TRENT FRAYNE

It is the unusual week of 19th-century French aristocrat *Madame Kitty* (first Lisa Cullin), "Plus ça change plus ça est le même chose." It was like that in Toronto last week when the first owner of the football Argonauts, Bruce McNeil, agreed to pay the equivalent of Canada's national debt to a 21-year-old undergraduate from Notre Dame University. Rightly heard, who has been called the most talented football player in the world. The amount, as McNeil himself was to say, reached "somewhere between \$25 million and God knows what" over a five-year contract.

Even in the half-world of sports, where millionaire performers are as plentiful as chewing tobacco, this was a shocker. Especially, it was a shocker for American football fans who since young Larry, known as Rocket, was the closest player in last week's draft of college players to teams of the National Football League. In American sports, the art is right up there with the presidency and the nearest equivalent of the Miss America contest. There still unchanged turned eyes when the Rocket changed course in Canada.

"The Rocket accepted the money instead of the challenge," growled Dave Anderson in *The New York Times*. "Now that the Rocket will be coming in the shadow of the Canadian Football League, it's as if he were just another sport capsule that disappointed. For all practical purposes, he has vanished."

A network television talking head named Todd Edmonds, on the scene at the 30th draft, spent the day in a tirade against Rocket, comparing the shocker to the way missing child, even more money (and, a new contract in the United States). "He will use the day he left America," said Edmonds. What the Rocket should have done instead of buying himself in Canada, he said, was spend five or six years in the NFL, "let them mix into some other capacity, such as broadcasting, like Joe Thornton has done."

There you go. If Edmonds had known anything about history, he would be wiser that (a)

Even in the world of sports, where millionaires are as plentiful as chewing tobacco, the signing of Rocket was a shocker

Joe Thornton spent two years as an Argonaut before joining the Washington Redskins, and (b) that the Argonauts have been signing American stars from under American noses for decades.

It was, indeed, precisely 26 years ago that Harry Goodwin, a university, early former Argonaut player who had become a successful businessman, scored NFL games and then signed two stars from the Detroit Lions, quarterback Sam Balderson and tackle Ed Hawn, and two other linemen from the New York Giants, Billy Shipps and Ed Alleghy. He retired then the way MacNeil hired the Rocket: he paid them more money than the NFL teams were willing to pay them. The quarterback, Balderson, led the parade to the pay window, as unbecomingly \$17,500.

The amount had gone up by 1975 when a local owner named Bill Hodgson owned the Argonauts and attracted Anthony Davis to Toronto with a five-year contract totaling \$11 million. Davis set 16 college records in four years at the University of Southern California, including six yards that had belonged to the celebrated O. J. Simpson. In one game watched on television by millions of fans on both sides of the border, Davis ran for six touchdowns

against Notre Dame. So Hodgson pursued this wonder runner to help the Argonauts offset the impact of a Montreal Alouette star, Johnny Rodgers, from the University of Delaware. Rodgers had changed Hodgson by scoring an easy touchdown against the Argos, running backwards into the end zone.

I remember looking to Hodgson during Grey Cup week in Calgary right after he had traded Anthony Davis. "I've made just one request of A. D.," said the leonine owner. "I've asked him when he scores his first touchdown against Montreal to then second and cross the goal line backwards." As it happened, Davis never did. He turned out to be something of a nuisance in a difficult relationship with the coach, Russ Jackson, and after that one season, he departed.

Earlier, in 1971, the Argonauts enjoyed much more success with a celebrated import. They were seeking a quarterback and the coach then, the unaccomplished and emotional Leo Calaf, recruited Joe Thornton at Notre Dame. Thornton was also long pursued by the NFL's Miami Dolphins, and when Leo learned that Joe had joined Dolphins coach Don Stula at a press conference in Miami to announce that he had decided to sign with the Dolphins, Leo phoned him to wish him well.

The other day, Leo recalled the transaction. "By the way, Coach," Joe told me, "I haven't signed my contract. I want my coach at Notre Dame to check it." I told Joe he owed it to himself and his wife, Shari, to come to Toronto and more time just to have dinner with us and take another look around. And Joe said, "Well, OK, we've got nothing to do this weekend. Why not?" So they came up and we signed him. We gave him a \$50,000 bonus and \$50,000 a year for two years."

Something like that influenced the explosive Rightful hand to join the Argonauts (in addition to enough money to enjoy the pleasure of a good right-handed pitcher). Rightful, by the way, with his Moslem name, was born in Newark, N.J., and raised by his mother, Helene, and grandmother in the latter's home in White Plains, Pa. His father, Ibrahim, himself, was a devout Moslem. He died in 1985 from kidney failure and tuberculosis, and it is said that the influence of the young man's mother has never left him. She has been a disciplinarian, teaching Islam to be honest and modest.

At any rate, as Leo Calaf had recruited Joe Thornton, McNeil recruited the Rocket, and only more so. He saw him in Los Angeles and to Toronto in his private jet, had him chauffeured about in his Rolls-Royce and a hard line, had Wayne Gretzky escort him around the Los Angeles Kings dressing room, the Kings being owner of owner McNeil's child.

After influencing the Rocket's decision was what surprised Thornton 30 years ago but liked Toronto. "The people there, when they saw me, they didn't see this," Rightful said, touching his cheek. "They looked there and saw the person. It's a feeling that I didn't really experience before I went to Toronto. It just came from the heart. It was great."

Now there's a switch a guy from outside Toronto getting it. Not everything remains the same.

HEALTH

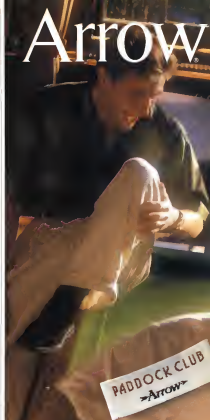
Treasures from trees

Ovarian cancer treatment depends on ancient yews

Foremen once felled the Pacific yew tree as a rival to the West Coast wilderness. It grows so slowly in the shade of its taller neighbors that 100-year-old yews commonly have trunks only six inches wide. Their tough, red and yellow wood can resist even chain saws, and lumber companies have often left the felled trees to rot as waste at clear-cut forests. But the shrub-like yews, which are scattered along coast areas from the southern tip of Alaska to northern California, are fast becoming a precious commodity in the fight against cancer. Indeed, researchers at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore reported in clinical trials that an experimental drug called taxol, which processors have felled from Pacific yew bark in the late 1980s, reduced tumors in 12 out of 43 women with osteoporosis—and often fatal—ovarian cancer. "This could be effective in a wide range of cancers," said Dr. Joseph Pater, clinical trials director at the National Cancer Institute at Canada in Kingston, Ont., which joins an international trial of taxol in July. "There's no question that it's significant."

But the sheer volume of yew trees needed to produce slightly more than two pounds of taxol, about 30 tons of bark from 12,000 trees, has set off a fierce debate between environmentalists and medical researchers. Yew scientists used to be one of the most promising sources of drugs of the past 10 years, conservationists insist that widespread harvesting of yew trees will destroy already-vulnerable ancient forests that are refuge to rare plants and animals. Said Joseph Pater, a spokesman for the Vancouver-based Western Canada Wilderness Committee: "We are unleashing yet another gold rush before we even know what's out there." But doctors argue that they cannot spare such a valuable weapon against ovarian cancer, which affects about 3,000 women in Canada each year and kills at least two-thirds of them.

Both pressure from scientists and a limited supply of yews have sped drug manufacturers to a quest for alternative sources of taxol. Scientists say that a rich source may be found in the eastern aspect of yew, a more common and faster-growing variety that is found throughout Eastern Canada. Others have suggested spontaneous growth of Pacific yews, although forestry experts say that their slow growth makes cultivation only a long-term



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WELTH

option. At the same time, Rosash researchers have used European pine needles in the form of a similar drug called taxolene, which is being tested on humans.

But many North American scientists express skepticism about the chances of synthetically manufacturing the complex compound. "It has never been done," said Dr. Benl Schepers, a cancer expert at the Bethesda, Md.-based National Cancer Institute, which is co-ordinating U.S. research on taxol with the New York City-based drug manufacturer Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. But he added, "We will try every possible way to get this drug."

For their part, Canadian scientists say that they want some control over the use and source of the drug. Neil Turner, a botany professor at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, is testing a method to produce taxol. Said Turner: "This is not the time to become mere buyers of wood who send raw material to the United States and buy back the finished product." Peter says that the Kingston-based study will examine the amount of taxol needed to affect ovarian tumors. In current U.S. trials, cancer patients receive tiny amounts of taxol, one gram over several months of treatment, intravenously for 24 hours, once every three or four weeks. Peter says that a lower dosage may stop the known side effects, including extreme nausea and low blood pressure, that can be so severe as to prevent up to 10 per cent of patients from using taxol. Said Peter: "It's a severe enough reaction that people don't want to take the drug."

Many conservationists, however, have expressed concern that the development over taxol will further threaten already-vulnerable forests, destroying the source of other potentially life-saving drugs. And they point out that thousands of plant species, the potential basis of numerous drugs, have already become extinct because of uncontrolled development. Said Dr. Wayne Schurr, research director of the Toronto-based Canadian Drug Manufacturers Association: "It is losing what we haven't discovered yet, that is the most devastating." Meanwhile, nature insiders say that the budding prospect of taxol plants are not rare discoveries. "We have used pine needles for centuries," said Ellen Wiers, an elder and healer with the B.C. Nanaimo Indian band. "But it's only considered a drug when the drug companies come along."

With the sudden enthusiasm over the tree's properties, yew has become a precious commodity. And that has made the tale of the once-spared tree a high priority. "Nobody is set to destroy something as valuable," said Douglas Cooper, manager of logging for the Vancouver-based Council of Forest Industries of British Columbia. "This is not a simple preservation issue." Still, researchers admit that, until they find an alternative source of taxol—if they do—they face an agonizing choice between preserving ancient forests and saving human lives.

DIANE BRADY



PADDOCK CLUB
→ Arrow

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Diamond settings

An exhibition celebrates the art of baseball

For best 1985 work *Guyton Jackson Perry*, New York City artist Susan Grayson arranged 28 small black-and-white photographs of the veteran Seattle Mariners pitcher in neat rows. All of the images show Perry in the pitcher's mound, fiddling with his glove, hunching up his belt, twirling the muck of his visor. On Perry, who retired in 1983 after pitching for six major-league teams, three spotlights, as he was allowed to have done? And if so, which of the many moves depicted in Grayson's work did he use to put an illegal substance on the ball? A touring show that opened last week at *Baseball's Sky Dome* means there are other questions *Diamonds Are Forever: Artists and Writers on Baseball* is a switch hitting exhibition, directed at art lovers and sports fans alike. Its chief curator, Peter Gordon, senior exhibit designer for the New York State Museum in Albany, N.Y., says that the show is "probably the only one ever reviewed by both *Sports Illustrated* and *Artforum*."

Diamonds Are Forever features 118 works by artists including French painter René Dely and American Andy Warhol. As well, the exhibition displays 39 excerpts from writings by mainly American authors ranging from Emerson to Kerouac to John Updike. It will remain at the SkyDome—the exhibition's only Canadian stop—until its 18-city tour, and the site of the July 9 All-

Star Game—until June 22. When *Diamonds Are Forever* opened in the Albany museum in 1987, its curators had no idea that it would still be on the road four years later, with future stops scheduled for Tokyo and Taipei, Taiwan. But baseball is such a potent subject that requests have kept coming in. Said Gordon, who describes himself as an ardent Boston Red Sox fan: "In American culture, everyone is somehow touched by baseball. It's just part of our moral fabric." Added former New York Mets pitching reporter Tom Seaver, the exhibition's spokesman: "We hope the show's subject will attract people—just especially—who might not normally think of going to a museum or art gallery."

The show's organizers discovered—through "word of mouth, people talking on their breaks," said Gordon—that many artists had at some time found inspiration in baseball. Objects in the exhibition range from a hat and ball washer seen to Warhol's sleek 1982 print of Pete Rose as a baseball-card superhero. Since Warhol created his Rose portrait, the former Cincinnati Reds slugger has served a five-month sentence for federal cocaine use offense, dunking a bright image of fame with a wash of infamy. But Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio and other heroes depicted in *Diamonds Are Forever* remain larger-than-life in the media eye, just as they were supposed to.

Languevin's *Play Ball*. "In American culture, everyone is somehow touched by baseball."



One of the hundreds and novel income images in the show is Scott May's 1986 photograph *Two Pines and Billy Jayner*. Moments later, in a handsome ball player, who was then a star center with the California Angels, leans nonchalantly on a ball-park fence. On the other side of the fence are two small boys, staring up at the young star with wonder and a hint of fear. They are close enough to touch him.

But baseball's hold on the North American imagination has to do with a lot more than boys worshipping during a game. A ball park can be a raucous, crowded carnival of a place, as in Keith Russell's *Night Game*—*Smoker* (1981). Other works in the exhibition, which is on view at the SkyPlace complex adjoining the SkyDome, convey the grandeur of empty stadiums, which in their desolation somehow suggest sacred spaces. For his part, Michael Langston's witty satires the almost mythical power of baseball in his 1982 portrait collage, *Play Ball*. He has irreverently altered the most famous detail of Michelangelo's *Sancti Spiritus* chapel ceiling—that of God stretching out his fingertip to bestow life on Adam—by slipping a regulation baseball into the divine hand.

Diamonds Are Forever is as much about writers who've been in it as short visual artists and the sport. Baseball has for decades been beloved by authors—as part, no doubt, because it has much in common with literature. Roger Angell, a senior fiction editor at *The New Yorker* and the author of several highly regarded collections of baseball writing, told *Artforum*: "Baseball is nothing like any other sport in the way it moves. It's slow-moving and linear. It has a form of narrative, it's not like hockey or basketball or any sport of swirling activity." Angell is among the many writers whose work has been excerpted for *Diamonds*. The curators selected short passages of text for the gallery walls, and the show's catalogue (Chronicle Books, \$29.95) includes some longer works in full, such as John Updike's *Two Pines* and Rod Aiken, a vivid account of Ted Williams's triumphant last game with the Boston Red Sox in 1960.

Like the artwork, the texts celebrate baseball's vibrant variety. In an excerpt from his classic study of the sport, *How Life Imitates the World*



Harvey Diamond's *The White Swing* (1974) depicting DiMaggio at bat; Roncetti's *Night Game* (below) greets

Seaver (1982), Thomas Bayard's tribute to the ancestral resources of baseball. "Ever since the first crimson-pinked up the first caught, went to his front door and watched the first new game—nothing like the sport, nothing has known the strategic power and pleasure of the bat." In a more elegant vein is Roger Kahn's account of following the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1952 and 1953, the years in which they lost the World Series to the New York Yankees. "You may play in a team (trumpet!)," Kahn wrote in his 1971 book, *The Days of Summer*, "but you fall in love with a team or not."

Some of the texts reveal in the sheer awareness of the baseball park. "Base was stammering," Robert Parker wrote in his 1946 work, "Somer's a Pin, Too," which includes a description of entering Fenway Park in Boston. "Through the darkness under the stands and up and into the bright green park, bathed in light, orange-

less and symmetrical, contained, exact, and endlessly different, like water in a stream." And sure find gratification in the sport's complexity. Neville Philipson, who became a journalist in childhood, wrote in his autobiographical

"My Baseball Years" (1975), "Not until I got to college and was introduced to literature did I find anything with a comparable emotional atmosphere and mythic appeal."

But at the same time that baseball bears the weight of all kinds of significance, it remains in most truly light-hearted pastime, a game for many, lay abstracts. *Diamonds Are Forever* honors Kerouac's advice to softball players on how to opt like a man-in-a-pipe in the fly role of Rod's proclamation "Spot. Damnedly." Kerouac wrote: "But correctly. Spot should be above, not pined weirdly with the lip, which often results in drinkable. Spotting should convey transcendence of purpose, concentration, pride." Recognizing that the sport has as much to do with Kerouac's gut as with Rod's polish, *Diamonds Are Forever* sheds some interesting light on baseball's multi-faceted fascination.



PAMELA TOWSE

Culture's new pilot

Perrin Beatty takes on the arts portfolio

The message in Roy Maclean's answering machine last week was a rare and welcome surprise: Maclean, from Vancouver, where he had been appointed the new director of the Association of Canadian Publishers. And when he stopped into his office on Wednesday, the note on his machine was that of Perrin Beatty, just named the country's new minister of communications in an April 21 cabinet shuffle. Beatty's desire to introduce himself, noted Maclean, marked a "major departure" from the style of his predecessor, Marcel Masse, now minister of defence. "Masse was first-class as a guy," says Maclean, 47, whose growing reputation as an increasingly troubled industry "But he was not a great role for reaching out. He would never have left a message as your answering machine." Advised Maclean: "Congratulations, he didn't even answer his letters."

The communications portfolio gives Beatty responsibility for such organizations as the CBC, the National Film Board and the CRTC, as well as the country's cultural sector in general. A variety of cultural organizations are called early last week from the portable, 40-year-old minister, long noted for his business and political skills. And like Maclean, they express the hope that the new style will be accompanied by greater success in winning allies in cabinet for a sector that has been increasingly lacking in recent years. They say that along with managing a pinched cultural budget, Beatty will represent the institutions' interests in Ottawa, and will, like Masse, address in upcoming legislation that Masse drafted but which had not won cabinet or Commons approval.

Many critics of the government's recent measures pertaining to culture also want the minister to fight for the integrity of the CBC and to oppose greater power over culture and communications for the provinces in any new constitutional deal. They say that Beatty should reinforce the importance of his portfolio's consistency during the current debate on Confederation. In an interview with Maclean's last week, Beatty declared that the country's arts and communications are tied to questions of "national survival. They are central to how we define ourselves."

Beatty is no newcomer to the cultural sector. On first being elected in 1972, he moved to serve on the Canadian book-keeping committee, and was a member of that body until 1979. Between 1980 and 1983, he was the Toronto communications voice. Later, as minister of revenue—the second of six cabinet posts that he has occupied—he dealt with taxation issues



Beatty with his mother: a pinstriped budget

involving artists. According to Susan Anne, associate director of the Canadian Council of the Arts, at that time he displayed "understanding and sensitivity to the special needs of the artistic community." Said Beatty: "My interest [in culture] goes back a long way. In a sense, I'm returning to my first love."

Another love is politics itself. The son of a wealthy family that now manufactures appliances in Rogers, Que., Beatty was first elected to the House of Commons when he was only 22 and a recent university graduate. Seven years later, he joined the cabinet—as minister of state for the Treasury Board and the short-lived government of Joe Clark. When the

Conservatives regained power in 1984, Beatty was appointed minister of national revenue and minister responsible for Canada Post Corp. Then, in 1985, he was named solicitor general. Beatty gained a reputation among public servants for his even temperament and mastery of detail. But he was also dubbed a "concordance minister" for his ability to attract cabinet attention as various portfolios were traded among ministers—and then to assure on behalf of those ministers that he be implemented. He entered a new phase of his career in 1986 in his first senior ministry, the department of national defence. Much that he accomplished as minister of the defence's war circle—the graphics and planning committee. But it was in the defence portfolio that Beatty suffered his first major political setback. His controversial white paper on defence—which would have revamped the nation's aging defence stock and provided for the acquisition of European government submarines—was passed by cabinet but put on hold after the 1986 election. In 1988, Beatty was named minister of cultural affairs and heritage, a position that he held until last week. Colin Jackson, the producer of Winnipeg's Prairie Theatre Exchange, and the fact that Beatty has "some left in cabinet" makes his new appointment "good for those who care about the industry."

Married for 17 years to former stockbroker Julia Beatty (the sister of Liberal Senator Colin Kenny), with whom he has two children, the 44-year-old Beatty has a reputation for hard work—finishing working lunches of turkey sandwiches and ash. Among the major challenges facing him as his new job in the disposition of a wide-ranging field of draft legislation. These measures include revisions to the Copyright Act, amendments and policies to bolster cultural industries ranging from films to books, and a Status of the Artist bill that would give artists professional legal status and rights (social benefits and collective bargaining, which they now lack).

Beatty says that it is premature to discuss how he will deal with these and other issues—many of which, critics say, Masse had left at a time for too long. "I'm just plowing through the briefing books now," Beatty said, "getting my feet wet." But those in the cultural sector say that the delivery of the government's "first speech" in mid-May might provide some indication of Beatty's ministerial attitude. Said Jacqueline Houston, executive director of the Toronto-based Canadian Book Publishers' Council: "We like watching [it] for all its reaching out to the cultural community. It is clear that Beatty will be helped, rather than hindered, by expressions of interest not in past achievements—but on issues."

GLEN ALLAN in OTTAWA



Action Peter Dinklage (left), Stallone, Chase Palmentieri night gigs and silly puns

FILMS

Featherweight fun

Sylvester Stallone puts down his dukes

OSCAR
Directed by John Landis

Sylvester Stallone has built a successful career playing barking barons. As Rocky Balboa, he fought his way into the Hollywood big time in five successive incarnations of the scrappy boxer's saga. And as the steady, unassuming breadwinner fighter John Rambo, he turned from Italian Stallion into a war-time soldier of American patriotism. In his new movie, *Dave*, a tribute to the screwball comedies of the 1930s, Stallone plays as his toughest image in a comic portrayal of a Philadelphia-area boxer trying to win against heavy odds—to put his insolent past behind him. The result is a decidedly featherweight but pleasantly funny adult.

Chances were much of its appeal to the broadest possible set by veteran comedy director John Landis. Almost the entire movie takes place on a summer morning at the mansion of divorcee Angela (Sherry Stringfield, played by Beatty eight days and nights ago). For the most part, *Dave*, a wonderfully well-timed comedy, made a deliberate request of his son to never his most carefree and become an honest man. Since then, Providence has been closing his horizons and confining four ap-

right, upright boxers in the hopes of becoming their partner. On the morning at hand, he is sweating a visit from them while harking orders at his study clerk to back them respectfully out. His task is complicated by a series of well-planned revelations, white lies and mistaken identities. Among other things, his accountant, Anthony Rossini (Vincent Spania), confesses that he has misread a \$50,000 from Providence and intends to use the money to set up a town with the boxer's daughter. Rossini, however, has himself been deceived; he married with in reality the daughter of a poor homestead and has led to Rossini in order to impress him with her wealth. When Providence asks his daughter, Lisa (Marta Thorne), if she is having an affair with one of his employees, she confesses, returning not to Rossini but to the chauffeur, Oscar (Sam McMullen).

As *Dave* spills out into countless subplots, Providence's usage of a man in control of his affairs evaporates. At times, the movie struts a bit too hard to wring funny moments from Beatty's tight grip and silly puns. But, for the most part, *Dave* delivers with several rounds of solid laughs delivered with a bit of bawiness and the silly serving of comic punch.

VICTOR DRYER

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The marrying maniac

A horrid script wrecks a horrifying story

A KISS BEYOND DYING
Reviewed by James Dawkins

In the 1967 thriller *Fatal Attraction*, a married man risks a casual affair with a seductively charming woman who turns out to be a homicidal maniac. A remake of a 1956 movie starring Robert Wagner and Jeanne Crain, *A Kiss Before Dying* stars, for the same sordid, cynical thrills as *Fatal Attraction*. But it is not hell as effective. Deskins has tried to create a stylized gothic melodrama. The first 20 minutes are truly terrifying, yet not scary enough to ensure the damage done by the horrid script. And although Matt Dillon is superb in the villain, his efforts are all but canceled out by the unfathomably flat acting of Sean Young, who plays the heroine: she delivers her lines as if they were written on our nose.



Dillon playing a psychopath

The movie opens with sinister music and images of industrial gloom. Melton metal pours from the bucket of a copper smelter. A freight train thunders by a narrow clapboard house, where a young boy stands and the window. Cut to the present. The boy has grown up to be an affable, ambitious, well-made psychopath. Why is not clear. Perhaps his estranged father loved him too little and his doting mother (Diane Ladd) loved him too much. Perhaps the trauma were just too dense to bear. Whatever the motives, Jonathan (Dillon) embarks on a cold-blooded mission of marrying—and murdering—his way into a family controlled by Thor, a copper magnate (Max von Sydow).

Young portraits Thor's two daughters, Dorothy and Ellen. Early in the story, Jonathan terrorizes a clandestine romance with Dorothy by showing her off at a tall building (necessarily, the camera shows her going upstairs) like domo's sister, who is obsessed with tracking down her sister's killer—mistake that he is sharing her bed. As the audience waits for her to discover what a steady leaves, the story becomes hard. Almost every line of dialogue acquires a double meaning. Deskins leaves the terror to several scenes by showing old secrets—Kirkpatrick and Aikido and Costello Meet Frankenstein—playing on the TV in the background that campy connotations fail to disguise the movie's flaws. And a nod to the classics only points up that *A Kiss Before Dying*—for all its patch violence—is a pale, poisonous replica.

BRIAN O. JOHNSON

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TELEVISION

R.I.P., J. R.

Dallas faces its final fade-out

In setting was the heartbreak and bed scenes of the Texas oil patch. Its central character was a debauched tycoon who could be ruthless even with his own flesh. And its premise was shockingly simple: greed, malice and the pursuit of riches and power are the stuff of the American dream. A caricature of high living in the decadent 1980s, *Dallas* was more than just a satirical reflection of its time. Over the years, the weekly sagittarian soap opera became an integral part of the era that it so successfully parodied. But as the lustre of that decade began to fade, so did the interest in *Dallas*. Since the opening episode of the 1986-1987 season—when the show's writers announced that the entire previous season had been one character's dream—viewers in the United States and elsewhere have been tuning out in ever greater numbers. In its current season, the series has attracted 30 million American viewers per week, placing 18th in the U.S. Nielsen ratings—and prompting CBS to announce that, within 35th episode to air on May 3, *Dallas* will ride off into the sunset forever.

It is no cast that will be watched around the world. During its 13-year run—only *Gemstone*, at 20 years, and *Arrested*, at 14, run longer in prime time—the show built a core of loyal fans in 37 countries, including, it is rumored, members of the British Royal Family. In Canada, the series has proven especially durable, drawing an average of 1.1 million viewers to its CBS every Friday evening at 8, for a healthy ranking of 18th place in the March Nielsen ratings. *Dallas* made every Canadian-made dramatic series and places well ahead of several U.S. shows—including *Myth: Busted* and *The Golden Girls*—last autumn at such of the border. And many of its Canadian fans say that they miss its passing. *Dallas* writer Kathleen Ueberall, 34, a television officer living in Carleton Place, near North Bay,

"I'm going to miss all that nastiness."

Dallas' main attraction throughout the years was the vicious chain of oil baron J. R. Ewing, played with a cocksure swagger and offbeat Texas drawl by Larry Hagman. In early episodes, J. R. was a supporting character to the sweet Pamela Barnes Ewing (Victoria Principal), the sister of J. R.'s arch-enemy, Cliff



J. R. (Hagman) with friend (Pam Barnes) diabolical

Barnes (Donna Douglas). Her marriage to J. R.'s good-hearted younger brother, Bobby (Patrick Duffy), was to have provided the show with a relatively simple, Romeo-and-Juliet motif. But Hagman's J. R. proved too strong—and too appealing—a character to relegate to the sidelines and, from early on, *Dallas* succeeded as a direct program to J. R.'s nastiness.

By the end of the second season, when a mysterious stranger at the Southfork Ranch

threw a bullet into the oil baron's chest, almost every one of the dozens supporting characters had a good motive for firing it. The following September, a record 360 million people around the world tuned in to find out "Who shot J. R.?"—and watched as his same-sex-love, Kristin Shepard (Olivia Cusack), held a smoking revolver and muttered that she was pregnant with J. R.'s baby. It was the last of many times that J. R. survived an enemy bullet before, according to several observers, it was J. R.'s cocaine-fueled love with his adoration—specifically the single Bobby—that gave the show its staying power. But Robert Pitt, who teaches mass communications at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., "Lies Shakespeare's tragedies. *Dallas* showed the everyday right of good against evil at the very last of society. The masses have always relished that stuff."

Other observers suggest more straightforward reasons for the show's popularity: it offered an escape to a fantasy world far from the pressures of daily life. In a series of surveys conducted by CIBC-TV between 1987 and 1990, only 40 per cent of regular viewers said that they found the show's plot lines to be believable—compared with an average of 80 per cent for all TV dramas. Still, one out of 10 of those polled described *Dallas* as entertaining and up to 80 per cent said that it related them to work. Typically, Toronto physician Anne Fitzgerald, 32, a regular *Dallas* watcher, told *Metrowest*'s "The more stories I'm seeing, the more I like to watch *Dallas*."

But even in Canada, *Dallas*'s popularity has been in steady decline in recent years, losing about two million viewers since 1986, when it captured 45 per cent of the TV audience and won Canada's No. 1 show. The CBC, which pays the show's distributor \$38,000 per episode, says that even before the CBS announcement, it had been considering cancelling *Dallas* as part of its recent promise to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to cut two of its current 49 hours of U.S. prime-time shows by this fall.

In the meantime, *Dallas* fans can console themselves with reports that the series' final episode will reunite several of its most colorful former stars, including Linda Gray, who until 1989 played the villain's long-suffering wife, Sue Ellen, and Joan Van Ark, who briefly portrayed J. R.'s same-sex-love, Kristin, until losing the Ewing part of *Dallas* for the equally offbeat *Loose Ends*—which is set to enter its 10th season on CBS and CTV next fall. In the two-hour finale, Joel Grey will play an angel posing the question, "How would *Dallas* have looked if J. R. had never been born?" For the millions of fans who loved to hate the diabolical oilman, that is an occasion to thank the well-oiled.

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An author's anguish

Pain shaded Joseph Conrad's famous tales

JOSEPH CONRAD
by Jeffrey Meyers
(Scrivener's, 428 pages, \$27.50)

Joseph Conrad, the maritime British merchant marine captain who wrote such great works about seamen as *The Ragged Dick*, *The Nigger of the Narcissus*, *Lord Jim* and *Heart of Darkness*, actually lived the seafaring life. "He destined the sea as a man destined a craft of his mistress," wrote his friend Paul Mader Ford. "That paradise is only one of the many that Jeffrey Meyers explores in his fascinating biography, *Joseph Conrad*. The book's main claim to singularity rests on its revelations—gleaned by perusal of bag-raphers—that Conrad had a love-life love affair with Jane Anderson, a famous American journalist more than 30 years his junior. As for the rest of Conrad's story, much of it has already been thoroughly mapped in earlier studies, although Meyers, an English professor at the University of Colorado, has a particular talent for illuminating a life with previously unpublished or little-known tidbits.

More than most writers, Conrad forged his art as a crucible of sibling pain. Josef Teodor Konrad Nalecz Korzeniowski was born on Dec. 3, 1859, in Polish Ukraine, the lucky only child of Apollo Korzeniowski, a writer and Polish nationalist, and his wife, Eva, the daughter of a rich estate owner. In 1863, the Russian government, which then ruled much of Poland, sent the family into exile in Russia as punishment for Apollo's revolutionary activities. After three years of hard poverty, Eva died of tuberculosis. The same disease claimed Apollo four years later, leaving the 11-year-old Josef to be raised by a Polish uncle.

These early tragedies stunted Conrad permanently, hardening him with recurrent depression and a gloomy fatalism. In 1878, after a miserable stint with the Polish navy clerk marine and plagued by debt, he tried to kill himself. But the bullet passed through his body without hitting any vital organs. Later, wanting to change his activity to escape Russian military service, he joined the British merchant marine, eventually earning his captain's papers. Conrad also began to write, in English, working on his first novel, *Almayer's Folly*, during voyages to Africa and Australia



Meyers illuminating a life with culture

By the time it was published in 1895, cropping good and his father of the seamen's lonely life had led him into full-time writing.

As Meyers stresses, Conrad was the last major modern author to write as an adapted speaker. Never completely at home in English, he labored with hermetic care on each sentence and his prose took on its characteristic, almost an English idiosyncrasy and rhythmic. To the end of his life, Conrad's heavily accented spoken English remained nearly incomprehensible. Once, Meyers relates, when Conrad's English wife, Jessie, read one of his own books aloud, he chided her for her bad pronunciation.

Jessie George, a typist whom Conrad married in 1896, was the surrogate of the artist's life. His mother-in-law loved to speak jokingly of her dull placidity and possibly overweight body. Virginia Woolf called her Conrad's "lump of a wife," but the sensitive Lady Ottoline

Meyers was more perceptive when she remarked that Jessie was "a good and repeated mistress for this hypersensitive, nervous-minded man." Throughout his career, Conrad suffered frequently from nervous breakdowns, writer's block, hypochondria and grief. Jessie was the stepmother who nursed him.

Conrad's wife was understandably upset when he fell in love with the beautiful Jane Anderson, who in 1886 pursued an introduction to Conrad in order to meet, on the spot, "the greatest writer in the world." A frequent visitor to the Conrads' house in the south of England, the American journalist played Negro spirituals on their piano and utterly entranced the author, who, as Meyers points out, always associated music with sexuality. Yet for all the prominence Meyers gives these liaisons, he never proves convincing that it was consummated. It is possible that Conrad, a stonier by conventional morality, conducted these affairs entirely in his head.

Conrad's burden of gloom, hard work and physical pain eventually wore him out, and in 1904, at 65, he died suddenly of a heart attack. Meyers's account of his life introduces a plethora of interesting detail, although it is a disengagement in the areas of psychological insight and literary grace. Still, Conrad had both qualities in abundance and the biography may well have the effect of inspiring a fresh surge of interest in the man having an author's unforgettable stories.

JERRY HERSHMAN

Maclean's

DAVE SILVER LITE

FICTION

- 1 *The Swans of Wall*, Edgerton (1)
- 2 *Rhaphiel Song*, Smith (2)
- 3 *The Summer of the Queen*, Jelen
- 4 *As the Crow Flies*, Anchor
- 5 *Heartbeat*, Allen (3)
- 6 *The Hawk*, Hutchinson (4)
- 7 *The Seventh Commandment*, Sanders (5)
- 8 *See Jane Run*, Fasting (3)
- 9 *Heaven from a Foreign Country*, Crane (4)
- 10 *The Devil of Shannan*, Smith (3)

NONFICTION

- 1 *Henry Reagan: The Unconquered*, Beggs (1)
- 2 *Love, John*, Riley (1)
- 3 *You'll Never Be Lush in This Town Again*, Phillips (2)
- 4 *Life After Death: Mother* (2)
- 5 *Thirteen in a Room*, Santel (7)
- 6 *By Heart*, Sullivan (4)
- 7 *Plowing Pictures*, McGuire
- 8 *The Hidden Brotherhood*, McFar
- 9 *Memorabilia*, Bradburn (3)
- 10 *The Sky View Site*, Alan (1)

(1) Fiction best seller

Compiled by Brian Robison

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All the news that's fit to look up

BY ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM

It's not as if there is a shortage of sensations, from the Kurds to Rocket Israel. There are plenty of them, at the genuine quality. It is the artificial sensations that are so annoying, so trivial, so filling of newspaper space. The standard artificial sensation is the recital of how many scrapbook trips have been taken in the past calendar year by some beleaguered politician or official in high places. This, apparently, is worthy of tall, dark headlines.

The Washington press is currently awash over the air travels of the widely unpopular John Serrano, the pit bull who presides as George Bush's chief of staff. Rumors of several in otherwise serious newspapers are devoted to how many times he combined trips on government planes with a little along or visits to an aging aunt or whatever.

In Alberta, they are chewing over the flight packs of Premier Don Getty and his cabinet ministers, as if uncovering the Dead Sea Scrolls in Ottawa, regardless, with seasons of Woodstock and Borneo dancing on their computers, simultaneously upon the details of cabinet ministers' travels, meant for play and awe.

Constant reader will note that details of doctored politicians is not the usual lively role of this department. But at some stage there is the necessity to cry "Whoa!" John Serrano, who has the public personality of a pocket fence, is the second most powerful man in the most powerful nation on earth. He works like a dog. He is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, prepared to make decisions at 3 a.m. that will allow his boss to chamber unadvised.

At the serene White House there try to get out, even when flying he has to leave secret communications links with the President's office. Scowney data, out 37 ft, swayed between a smiling baby and a talkative politician seldom from Ottawa, rarely doesn't provide the circumstances for that.

It doesn't matter. Market Tumbler, the poorly Black provocator who is paid to give half-answers to the probing questions of the scribbles, is a White House briefing was asked



never comes about the Serrano travels that he was about the Kurdish refugees. Inexplicably, as well as with ready Teddy Kennedy and supposedly ready Nancy Reagan, is always more interesting than most drug, freese children as a far all mountain range.

In journalism, things you can look up are always rather than things you have to find out. The supposedly incriminating evidence that Serrano actually scored a little relaxed along with his governmental duties was supplied, after all, from government files and records. The shocking news on how many times federal ministers from Alberta use government jets to fly home to their loved ones is available, after all, in metropolitan Ottawa files available under freedom-of-information legislation passed by government.

(The stories, incidentally, are usually written by reporters, products of good Ottawa universities, who live in the country, sub-

sideed backwater of Ottawa, who would never leave that it would take a cabinet minister named less Campopoli two days of plane constraints, involving a designer at Vancouver, to reach Prime Report as he riding.)

So reporters turn into bookkeepers. Journalists convert themselves into accountants. Claps and chopsons who go into newspaper thinking they will be the next Lennox Stoddins or John Deane become King clerks, growing blind searching through obscure records in the parliamentary library.

To look up is easier than to find out. The other day, Gilles Lussier, the rising star in the Mulroney cabinet, confided to a reporter that it will when the day comes and he had to make a choice between Quebec and Canada, he would choose Quebec. Why doesn't someone go through every Quebec minister in the Mulroney cabinet and ask the same question? Not with the purpose of embarrassing anyone, but the reverse—of what we suspect—might be very useful in making TRUC (The Rest of Canada) more serious about contemplating the loss of Quebec.

The other Mulroney and several members of the Mulroney regime was demonstrated in the "re-organizing" cabinet shuffle that produced only one new face among the hoarded 40 body cabinet. Why does Canada, with 26 million souls, need 40 ministers, while the Americans, burdened with 266 million, can survive with a dozen? Why doesn't someone do a survey of all the supposedly critical ministers on the planet and do a comparison, cabinet ministers per capita?

No one has really looked into the source of those Mulroney's financing that provided the chaos for

has two leadership campaigns for the Conservative tag. With Mr. Buckenham's recent troubles in New South Wales, someone will see the next talk about little suburban, is poised to meet every leader from Lester Pearson on down through, excepting the millionaires who didn't need them?

Why does someone not do a really good look at the other party, rather outside the life story of Audrey McLaughlin, who could be a future prime minister? There is far more romance there than we think. It might help her, because at her.

The lowest thing in the world is without-land, always popular at the best times during clubs but a little more brown in a serious look in the most Canadian business world who rip off the nation through tax loopholes, the true "corporate welfare state."

Of course, it's much easier to perceive old advice tickets

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